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Page 35



Page 16



Page 18

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# ELECTION 2004

- Bush, Kerry storm battleground states in final push
- Last polls before voting suggest a tossup
- Parties in full swing to ramp up voter turnout

**Pages 10, 12-16**

# Stymied in Steeltown



## Pittsburgh ends New England's record 21-game winning streak

**Back page**

Far left: Pittsburgh's Ike Taylor intercepts a pass by New England quarterback Tom Brady intended for the Patriots' Bethel Johnson (81) in the second quarter Sunday in Pittsburgh. Steelers defensive back Chris Hope (28) helped out on the coverage. The Steelers won 34-20.

**Near left: Patriots head coach Bill Belichick reacts to a first-quarter Steelers touchdown.**

AP photos

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## TODAY IN STRIPES

Abby, Annie's Mailbox.....	26
American Roundup .....	20-21
Classified .....	27-29
Comics .....	24-26
Crossword .....	25
Faces .....	18
Horoscope .....	24
Letters .....	22
Opinion .....	23
Sports .....	31-40
TV listings .....	19
Weather .....	30
Your Money .....	16

## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## World

**Madrid bombing suspects:** The Spanish government has ordered most of the suspects jailed over the Madrid terror bombings to be dispersed in prisons around Spain as part of a plan to prevent Islamic radicals from recruiting behind bars, a newspaper said Monday.

El Pais said 14 of those 16 suspects, who are all in prisons in the Madrid area, will be transferred to prisons as far south as Andalusia and to Galicia in Spain's northwest corner.

The measure comes in response to Judge Baltasar Garzon's recent warning that Spanish prisons have become breeding grounds for Islamic terrorists willing to commit suicide attacks.

**Milosevic trial:** Appeals judges at the U.N. war crimes tribunal at the Hague restored Slobodan Milosevic's right to act as his own defense lawyer Monday, but they said he must accept a standby in case he becomes ill.

The written ruling by the five-judge panel essentially reverses a decision by trial judges to impose a court-appointed lawyer on the former Yugoslav president, saying that "when he is physically capable of doing so, Milosevic will take the lead in his case."

But the ruling said an appointed lawyer must remain on standby in case Milosevic's "health problems resurface with sufficient gravity."

**Mass grave exhumation:** Forensics experts in Bosnia-Herzegovina said they resumed exhumations on Monday in the country's second-largest mass grave found since the end of the 1992-95 war.

So far experts have exhumed 415 bodies from a mass grave in northwestern Bosnia, which contains the bodies of Muslims and Croats slain at a two wartime concentration camps, said Murat Hurić, an official with the missing persons commission in the Muslim-Croat part of Bosnia.

Exhumations will continue for at least 10 more days at the grave in Staro Kevljani near the town of Prijedor, 110 miles northwest of Sarajevo. The mass grave is the 51st found in the Prijedor area.

**Anglican church rift:** Widening the growing global Anglican rift over homosexuality, Anglican bishops in Nigeria said Monday they would stop theological training of African clergy in Western institutions.

Bishops also were studying creation of a



**Iran's nuclear program:** Iranian students form a human chain around the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization's headquarters in Tehran on Monday to defend Iran's right to possess nuclear technology. The U.N. nuclear chief on Monday urged Iran to suspend uranium enrichment, and called on North Korea to dismantle its own weapons program.

separate, "African" theology rejecting gay clergy and same-sex marriages, they said.

The African Anglican leaders, ending a six-day meeting, stopped short of calling for an outright split in the Anglican church as some had feared.

Africa accounts for about half of the world's 76.5 million Anglicans — and Nigeria's 17.5 million Anglicans are the biggest congregation outside England, where the church has its origins.

**Hong Kong elections:** Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-hwa on Monday rejected an opposition proposal for a referendum on whether direct elections should be introduced to choose the Chinese territory's leader and all of its lawmakers.

"The government will not develop the constitution by referendum, and it won't approve any proposal from any group to organize citizens to carry out a referendum," Tung told reporters.

**Violence in Thailand:** Thailand's revered king has urged a "gentle approach" to ending violence in the country's Muslim-dominated south where at least 85 people died at the hands of government forces last week, the prime minister said Monday.

After taking an iron fist stance in quelling the mounting unrest, Prime Minister

Thaksin Shinawatra said he would heed the words of King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

"The government is humbly taking the advice of His Majesty the king to use the gentle approach and allow local participation in resolving the problem," Thaksin said.

## Business

**Crude-oil prices:** The price of oil vaulted above the \$52-a-barrel mark Monday on news that a strike in Nigeria could affect output in the world's seventh-largest crude exporter, while traders looked for signs of how this week's U.S. presidential election would affect the market.

At mid-afternoon Monday in Europe, December crude on the New York Mercantile Exchange was trading electronically at \$52.31 a barrel — up 55 cents from its Friday closing. Prices jumped Friday after falling two days in a row.

## States

**Scott Peterson trial:** After hearing 174 witnesses for the prosecution and 14 for the defense, jurors in Redwood City, Calif., may be deliberating the fate of Scott Peterson by midweek.

Closing arguments were set to begin Monday, with prosecutors telling jurors why they believe Peterson should be convicted of two counts of murder in the deaths of his pregnant wife, Laci, and the fetus she was carrying.

The prosecution argument was to be followed by the defense and then a prosecution rebuttal. Jurors are expected to begin deliberations as early as Wednesday.

**Priest abuse charges:** A lawyer has compiled a list of 2,600 Roman Catholic priests nationwide who have been accused of sexual misconduct against children and plans to post it online by early next year.

Sylvia Demarest, a Dallas lawyer, and her staff spent 11 years on the list, which a victims' rights advocate says may encourage those who were abused to come forward.

Demarest said the database of alleged "priest perpetrators" and other Catholic officials who have been accused of sexually abusing children was assembled from public sources, such as court filings and media reports. The entries will list names of those accused and the time, place and nature of the alleged misconduct as well as whether a lawsuit or criminal charges resulted.

The database will be posted online at [www.bishopaccountability.org](http://www.bishopaccountability.org).

Stories and photo from wire reports

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# Seabees helping to create new restaurant

## Family-friendly eatery to open January 2006

BY GREG TYLER  
Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Seabees detachment temporarily deployed here is helping to create a new family-friendly, casual restaurant in the Galaxies Club by enclosing the open-air ground floor parking deck.

The Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Detachment 133 started the project on Aug. 26 and should finish the first week of December, according to Petty Officer 1st Class Lu Taylor, leading petty officer on the project.

Once the walls are in place and the ground floor enclosed, the Morale, Welfare and Recreation department will take over.

The restaurant will seat approximately 100 customers in an 1,800-square-foot dining area. It will feature a menu borrowing from various cuisines, said MWR Club coordinator Ken Taylor in an interview Monday.

"We learned from a recent Center of Excellence survey (Navy quality-of-life survey) that Galaxies Club customers wanted this family-friendly restaurant instead of

the combination bar and restaurant on the second deck," Ken Taylor said. "The atmosphere up there is basically that of a bar."

The Galaxies Club is a popular all-ranks MWR facility with a large bar and dining area on the second deck; the restaurant serves mostly quick favorites including hamburgers, pizza and tacos.

The third deck includes another large bar, a dance floor and a stage for live entertainment.

The new restaurant is estimated to open in January 2006. A scaled-down version of the current second-deck restaurant will remain in operation, the club coordinator said.

"We wanted to try something a little different. This will be a place where younger enlisted can come and bring their families. We'll leave the elegant dining to our Harbor View Club. But it won't be a fast-food restaurant either," he said.

Taylor added that MWR has not settled on a name for the restaurant, or a theme for décor, but did say the varied menu will feature stone-oven cooking and rotisserie chicken and ribs.

"There'll still be some of the mainstays and deep-fried options people are accustomed to, but we also wanted to offer some decent, healthier choices," he said. "For instance, along with pizza cooked in the stone ovens, we'll have *piadina*, which is sort of like salad enclosed in pizza dough."

The Seabees soon head back to their home station in Gulfport, Miss., and take with them experience in a wall-building technique they seldom use.

"Most of the concrete we pour is horizontal, like curbs and walkways poured into a form," said Lu Taylor. "This is the first vertical pour I've done."

The project involves building the walls along the south, east and north sides of the ground level deck.

"The walls are about 74 feet on the south side, 76 on the east and about 40 across the north facing the street. Each one is about 13 feet high," Lu Taylor said.

The Seabees build a grid-like rebar where the walls will be and then erect wood framework, or form work, on either side of the rebar. Then they pour concrete between the forms; the rebar serves to support the concrete like a skeleton.

The forms come down after the concrete has set — about eight days after being poured — and then it takes about a month to dry, or "cure," he said.

"The thing is, you can't pour concrete more than four feet. More than that, and it begins to separate. So we pour into the small windows cut into the forms at four feet, then in small windows four feet higher, and so on," Lu Taylor said.

"In all, these walls will be made from



GREG TYLER/Stars and Stripes

**The Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 continued work Monday on the construction of concrete walls to enclose the open parking area on the ground floor of Sasebo Naval Base's Galaxies Club.**

about eight or nine full loads from concrete trucks," he added.

During Topyak Tokage, some of the wooden formwork already in place was knocked out of alignment, and had to be re-leveled and reset, he said.

"This is a good learning experience for us," he said.

E-mail Greg Tyler at: tylerg@pstrs.com

# Misawa students bring Civil War, Frederick Douglass to life

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — When fifth-graders at Sollars Elementary School here sit down for the spring writing assessment next year, they may start humming "Dixie" or "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

As part of the five-year School Improvement Plan, fifth-graders throughout Department of Defense Dependents Schools in the Pacific participate in an annual writing assessment.

At Sollars, students will be asked to explain the causes of the American Civil War and choose a side. It's a heavy topic, appropriate even for college-level history majors.

It's also a challenge to teach 10-year-olds, said social studies teacher Michael Tate. The Civil War wasn't just about slavery and civil rights but also pitted states' rights against federal rights, Tate said. To demonstrate their knowledge, students in the assessment must use complex terms far removed from their everyday vernacular, such as "secede," "abolitionist," "chattel" and "fugitive slave act."

Though fifth-grade minds are like sponges, "it's a very difficult question for kids to answer at this age," Tate said. "It's hard for adults even."

Enter Frederick Douglass. Tate has prepared previous fifth-grade classes for the Civil War writing assessment, building those lesson plans around Douglass — one of the foremost leaders of the abolitionist movement, which fought to end slavery in the United States in the decades leading up to the Civil War.

But Tate wasn't satisfied that his students truly were grasping the issues and the vocabulary. He wondered: How could he teach this important chapter in American history better?

So Tate this summer wrote a play. "The Life Story of Frederick Douglass," starting two new fifth-grade classes: his and that of David Davis, who is helping with the 45-minute production.

Though the 46 budding actors and singers will perform for their school on Nov. 8 and then parents and the community on Nov. 10, Tate stressed the show's purpose is not to entertain. "It's to inform," he said, both the audi-



JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

**Fifth-graders at Sollars Elementary School on Misawa Air Base, Japan, rehearse "The Life Story of Frederick Douglass," a play social studies teacher Michael Tate wrote to help his students learn the complex lessons of the Civil War. They perform the play Nov. 10 for parents and the base community.**

ence and the performers.

Hard at work memorizing lines, painting props and rehearsing songs for the past six weeks, the students are learning, through the eyes of Frederick Douglass, what led the nation to war in 1861.

Four students take turns as Douglass, portraying him alternately as a child, teenager, adult and elderly man. The play also features marching Confederate

and Union soldiers, Abraham Lincoln in a constitution-paper top hat and eight authentic American songs from the era, such as "Hush, Little Baby," "Dixie," "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "Amazing Grace."

Throughout the production, students flash large signs with those dreaded vocabulary words illustrating what's happening on stage.

Tate's hope is that history will

come to life for the kids through acting, song and repetition.

"We're literally acting out our writing prompt," Tate said of the assessment.

The students say the lessons to be learned from the life of Douglass are sinking in.

"It's visual and you can hear it, instead of just trying to picture it in your mind," said Rebekah Harwell, 10. "I'm learning about my history and how it has helped me."

Kelsey Mostert, also 10, said Tate gave the class a book about Douglass and the play is helping her understand the text more, "now that I can see and hear it."

Ten-year-old Jared Stoton already has a jump on his persuasive writing assessment task: "I think he fought, just because we're all different, shouldn't mean we should be treated differently," he said of Douglass.

The show will be staged in Sollars' multipurpose room. Curtain time is 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Nov. 8 for the school, and 6:30 p.m. Nov. 10 for parents and the community.

E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at: svanj@pstrs.com

## Helping earthquake victims

Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station started collecting donations and contributions over the weekend for the earthquake victims in Niigata Prefecture, a base release stated Monday.

Base officials asked the community Friday to begin providing items from the following list if they wished to help:

- Food:
- Packed rice, cup noodles, canned food, sweets and snacks, powdered milk for babies and baby food.
- Tea (in plastic bottles) and drinking water (in plastic bottles).

Daily necessities:

- Paper cups, paper plates, tooth brushes, soaps, sham-

poos, towels (face and bath), toilet paper, tissues, sanitary items and cellophane film (for food). These items need to be in their original packaging.

- Diapers for infants and adults.
- Disposable hand warmers.

Batteries of all types, but only full packages.

Used underwear and blankets, even if they are washed, should not be donated, the release stated. Also, perishable food items cannot be donated. All items should be new or unused.

The drop-off point is at Building 1007. To get there, follow these directions: From the Iron Works gym, drive towards Penny Lake. A short distance from there you will see two buildings ahead, one at left, one at right. Building 1007 is the building on the left. There should be signs identifying the nearby GSA Mart.

Call Capt. Stewart Upton at 253-5551 for more information.

## Guam boil-water notice lifted

The boil water notice has been lifted for the Guam villages of Santa Rita, Agat, Naval Base Guam, Naval Magazine, and the Navy's Old and New Apra housing, base officials announced Monday, saying that tests have determined the water quality has met Environmental Protection Agency standards.

The water was shut off for those areas late Saturday night and early Sunday morning to allow clearing sediment from Fena Reservoir, base officials announced Sunday.

From Staff Reports

# New troops arrive to reinforce Fallujah strike

## Baghdad's deputy governor is gunned down by militants

By JIM FREED  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. forces are gearing up for a major offensive against Fallujah, the strongest bastion of Sunni insurgents. The order to launch what would likely be a bloody assault must come from Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, who warned Sunday that his patience with negotiations was thinning.

American and Iraqi officials hope to curb the insurgency in time for national elections by the end of January.

West of the capital, U.S. troops clashed with Sunni insurgents, and American artillery pounded suspected insurgent positions in Fallujah, witnesses said.

A handful of Iraqis showed up for the first day of voter registration in central Baghdad on Monday. They refused to allow TV cameras to film them for fear of future retaliation.

To help protect the voting, fresh American soldiers arrived in the capital Monday — reinforcements that push the total U.S. military presence in Iraq to around 142,000, the highest level since the summer of 2003.

Also Monday, gunmen opened fire on a car carrying Baghdad province's deputy governor, Hatim Kamil, to work Monday morning, killing Kamil, said Baghdad Governor Ali al-Haidari. Two of Kamil's bodyguards were wounded, Interior Ministry spokesman Col. Adnan Abdul-Rahman said.

A known militant group, the Ansar al-Sunnah Army, claimed responsibility for the attack in southeastern Baghdad.

"This is the fate of whoever is aiding or supporting the crusaders against the Muslims and mujahideen," the group said on its Web site. It was impossible to verify the claim's authenticity.

Insurgents have killed dozens of Iraqi politicians and government workers in recent months in a bid to destabilize the country's reconstruction.

The group also said it was behind the assassination of the deputy governor of Diyala province on Friday in the central Iraqi city of Baquba. Aqil Hamid al-Adili, the assistant to the governor for projects affairs, was killed by unidentified gunmen as he was sitting in a friend's office.

Allawi's speech Sunday seemed aimed at



U.S. Marines of the 1st Division gather for a morning briefing outside Fallujah on Monday. American forces are preparing for a major assault on Fallujah in an effort to restore control to a swath of Sunni Muslim towns north and west of the capital ahead of crucial national elections in January.

preparing the Iraqi public for an onslaught in Fallujah, Allawi warned of civilian casualties, saying that if he orders an assault, it would be with a "heavy heart."

"But I owe, owe it to the Iraqi people to defend them from the violence and the terrorists and insurgents," he said.

Commanders have estimated that up to 5,000 Islamic militants, Saddam Hussein loyalists and common criminals are holed up in Fallujah.

He did not give a deadline for how long he would give negotiations with Fallujah's city leaders in which he demands the handover of foreign fighters.

In a position that appeared to contrast with Allawi's, the country's interim president said a military assault was the wrong solution, according to an interview published Monday.

President Ghazi al-Yawer, a Sunni Muslim, told the Kuwaiti daily Al-Qabas that dialogue must continue and that insurgents "want nothing but a military solution, and the continuation of bleeding among Iraqis."

Meanwhile, heavy clashes between U.S. forces and insurgents continued Monday in Ramadi, an insurgent stronghold 70 miles west of Baghdad.

A bomb in Ramadi on Sunday killed one Marine and wounded four others, the military

said. The blast brought to nine the number of Marines killed in the area over the weekend. At least 1,121 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an AP count.

In Monday's fighting in Ramadi, one woman was killed and her two children injured, hospital officials said.

Also killed was an Iraqi freelance television cameraman, Dina Najm, who provided material to Associated Press Television News — believed to be the 24 journalist killed in Iraq this year.

On Monday, the British army's new base south of Baghdad was rocketed for the fourth straight day as Black Watch troops prepared to begin patrolling their new area of operation, British pool reports said.

Seven rockets landed in the space of an hour yesterday morning in the perimeter of Camp Dogwood, 30 miles southwest of Baghdad. British forces were brought to central Iraq to relieve U.S. troops expected to take part in a major assault west of Baghdad.

Baghdad's Camp Victory North, the sprawling headquarters of the Army's 1st Cavalry Division, was brimming to capacity with the arrival of the 3,700-member Louisiana-based 25th Enhanced Separate Brigade, a National Guard unit that has been rolling into the Iraqi capital over the past few days.

## American, five others kidnapped from office

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — An American, a Nepalese and four Iraqi guards were kidnapped Monday when gunmen stormed their office in Baghdad, sparking a gunfight that killed an attacker and a guard, officials said.

The U.S. Embassy confirmed that an American had been abducted in the shootout, which occurred about 5.30 p.m. in the upscale Mansour district of western Baghdad, but did not identify him. One Iraqi guard and one of the attackers were killed, police said.

Police Lt. Col. Maan Khalaf said the attackers arrived in three cars around 11 a.m., the traditional sunset meal which breaks the daylong Muslim fast during the holy month of Ramadan.

Kidnappers stormed the two-story house, surrounded by an outer wall with iron bars, and forced the victims to leave. "We heard gunfire. I went outside to see what was going on when a man pointed a machine gun at me and said: 'Get in or else, I'll shoot at you,'" said Haidar Karar.

From his house he saw "at least 20 attackers, some masked and some not," he said. Some were wearing traditional Arab robes and all were carrying automatic weapons.

Twelve Americans have been kidnapped or are missing in Iraq. At least three of them have been killed — all beheaded in abductions claimed by an al-Qaida-linked group led by Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

More than 160 foreigners have been abducted this year by militants with political demands or by criminals seeking ransom. At least 33 captives have been killed.

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# U.S. war crimes court to try first detainee cases

BY CAROL ROSENBERG

Knight Ridder Newspapers

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba — If America is at war, did it start on Sept. 11, 2001, or when U.S. forces invaded Afghanistan? Did it end when U.S. troops toppled the Taliban? Did President Bush have the power to create a whole new military justice system without permission from Congress? Is terrorism a war crime?

These are among the questions that lawyers will debate this week and next before the Pentagon's Military Commission, the first exclusively U.S. war crimes court since World War II.

Now whittled down to a panel of three officers from a pool of five officers and an alternate, the U.S. military colonels will hear lawyers' arguments on behalf of David Hicks, 29, of Australia and Salim Hamdan, 34, of Yemen.

They are the first two men facing trial on conspiracy charges as alleged members of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida movement.

Defense lawyers for the two men have filed hundreds of pages

## Panel of three officers will hear arguments on Australian, Yemeni held at Gitmo facility

of motions that challenge everything from whether the court itself is legitimate to whether mere membership in al-Qaida constitutes a war crime.

"This is where the defense is challenging every aspect of the commission," Navy lawyer Lt. Susan McGarvey said on Sunday, speaking for the Pentagon on the trials. "This is the very heart of the legal system — to be able to challenge it."

Prosecutors counter that U.S. history and tradition provides the framework for a new legal system in the 21st century's war on terrorism. And they repeatedly argue in briefs that Bush had the authority to create the war crimes court because, "the United States is engaged in a war against the international terrorist group known as al Qaeda."

In one reply, a Pentagon prosecutor reached back to Civil War-era military justice that set up a tribu-

nal for co-conspirators in the Abraham Lincoln assassination. "When lawless wretches become so impudent and powerful as to be controlled and governed by the ordinary tribunals of a country, armies are called out, and the laws of war invoked," said the brief, quoting from a July 1865 opinion issued by Attorney General James Speed.

In it, Speed described military tribunals as suitable for "secret, but active participants, as spies, brigands, bushwhackers, jayhawkers, war rebels and assassins."

The defense attorneys, like their prosecution counterparts, are U.S. military lawyers assigned by the Pentagon. Not only do they dispute U.S. allegations that Hicks and Hamdan were members of al-Qaida, but they use briefs this week to try to dismantle the court itself.

Rather, they argue, if their clients are to face U.S. justice at all, they should be tried using long es-

tablished, existing U.S. military or civilian law.

Bush administration advocates say the commissions are needed to protect classified and other secret information in a time of war. That has led to extraordinary prosecutive privileges, including the power to bring hearsay evidence and to shield from the men the identities of their accusers.

The proceedings come at an extraordinary time — straddling the U.S. presidential election, in which the Kerry-Edwards campaign has said the Democrats would likely scrap the war crimes court altogether and use U.S. courts-martial instead.

Meanwhile, commanders here say they are following the orders of their commander in chief, Bush. "Quite frankly, the commissions are going to proceed, detection and interrogations are going to proceed," said Army Col. David McWilliams, spokesman for the Miami-based Southern Command,

which supervises the Guantanamo prison project.

"At the time that our leadership, whether current or new, determines there needs to be a change in policy and direction, then we'll make a change in policy and direction," Hicks and Hamdan have been held by U.S. forces for about three years, mostly at this remote base where the Bush administration has created its premier war-on-terror detention and interrogation center. An Australian Christian convert to Islam, Hicks allegedly fought alongside Muslim forces in both Kosovo and Afghanistan.

Hamdan admits, through his lawyer, to having worked as bin Laden's \$200-a-month driver, at bin Laden's farm. But the Yemeni flatly denies ever joining al-Qaida or engaging in terrorist activities.

U.S. military officers say the 50 or so motions being considered, while expected to be dry legal arguments that last two weeks, could shape the ground-rules for future trials.

"This is the process that is establishing the law for the process," McWilliams said. "This is actually establishing a framework for going forward with the commissions."



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**IMPORTANT**

## Suicide blast kills 3 Israelis in Tel Aviv

BY GAVIN RABINOWITZ  
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — A Palestinian teenager laden with explosives walked into a crowded outdoor market and blew himself up Monday, killing three Israelis and wounding 32.

The attack tested Israel's promise to show restraint in the coming year, following a similar killing Yasser Arafat received medical treatment in France, and undercut efforts by Palestinian officials to convey a sense of normalcy in the absence of their leader.

Palestinian leaders — including Arafat — immediately condemned the attack, the first since a Sept. 22 bombing in Jerusalem.

The blast occurred shortly before noon when an attacker detonated an 11-pound bomb in the popular Carmel market in Tel Aviv, ripping apart a dairy store, damaging a neighboring vegetable stall and sending screaming shoppers running for safety.

"The explosion was huge, there was fire and smoke ... it knocked me over," said David Hayu, 56, who owns a butcher shop across from the store. "No one knew what to do. People were looking for their sons, their daughters, their husbands and wives."

The blast ripped off the front of the store's sign, covering it with blood and leaving loose wire dangling out of the wall. Lettuce and parsley splattered with blood were strewn on the pavement, along with spices and packages of children's socks.

Paramedics wheeled away two bodies in black plastic bags. Rescuer workers scoured the pavement and dug through piles of cheese and spices inside the store in search of body parts.

The attack, which killed three and wounded 32, was the 116th suicide bombing since the outbreak of Israeli-Palestinian fighting in 2000 and was the first since Arafat left for France last week.

In all, 493 Israelis have been killed in such attacks.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a radical PLO faction, claimed responsibility, identifying the assailant as Eli Amer Alfar, from the Askar refugee camp near the West Bank city of Nablus.

Alfar was only 16 years old, one of the youngest Palestinian suicide bombers, and his parents lashed out at the militants who recruited him.

"It's immoral to send someone so young," said Samir Abdulrah, 45, Alfar's mother. "They should have sent an adult who understands the meaning of his actions."

Abdel Rahim, 53, Alfar's father, said his son woke him up early Monday and asked for two shekels (50 cents) before leaving.

"Two shekels, that's what boys ask for — it's not money for men," he said. "He kissed me on the cheek and hand and left and I went back to sleep."

The blast came at a time of growing concern about instability during Arafat's absence. Militants appeared to be trying to signal they are in charge, not Arafat's stand-ins who have been trying to convey a sense of normalcy in Palestinian politics.

Israel has said that while the Palestinian leader is away, it would show restraint in its battle with militants.

After the bombing, Sharon said Israel "will not stop its war against terrorism" and reiterated his commitment to unilateral disengagement from the Palestinians.

"I'm not changing my policy until there are changes in the Palestinian administration and until it stops its incitement and its terror," Sharon said.

But there were few signs Israel was gearing up for a major retaliation for the attack, with none of the hurried meetings of top security officials or the heated rhetoric that usually precedes such a raid. Instead Israel called on the Palestinians to fight the violence.

## Afghan kidnappers willing to talk to U.N. negotiators

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM  
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A militant group threatening to kill three foreign hostages said Monday it was ready to negotiate with a United Nations envoy, but warned that any rescue attempt would end in bloodshed and stuck to a demand that the world body withdraw from Afghanistan and that America release Guantanamo prisoners.

A day after the U.N. election workers appeared pleading for freedom in an Iraq-style video, the Taliban splinter group said the three had been split up and are being held at separate locations.

"That's our strategy," Ishaq Manzoor, a spokesman for the group, said in a satellite telephone call.

"If the government and coalition forces find one of them, we will kill the other two."

Unidentified armed men abducted Annetta Flanagan of Northern Ireland, Filipino diplomat Angelito Nayan and Shaibe Habibi of Kosovo from a U.N. vehicle at gunpoint in the capital on Thursday.

Government officials say they have had no contact with the kidnappers.

However, the group's leader, Akbar Agha, said Monday that an Afghan businessman had offered to act as a go-between.

"One Afghan trader has approached us on behalf of the United Nations and we have nominated a two-member team for talks with him," Agha said in neighboring Pakistan in a separate call.

"We have proposed that the meeting should be held in Jalalabad tomorrow."

U.N. spokesman Manoel de Almeida e Silva declined to comment on whether any contact had been made.

Manzoor suggested that the group, called Jaish-ul-Muslimeen, or Army of Muslims, would wait until Friday before killing any hostages. The group also insists that Britain withdraw its troops from Afghanistan.

But Agha said their demands, which also include the pullout of British forces, had to be met by noon on Wednesday.

"They have until 12 o'clock on Wednesday to fulfill our demands. We want the United Na-

tions to stop interfering in Afghanistan," Agha said.

In the video, the hostages are shown sitting hunched together against the bare wall of a room in an undisclosed location. Both women are crying, but all three look unharmed. The three were in Afghanistan to help manage the Oct. 9 presidential election.

Hamid Karzai, Afghanistan's interim leader, released a statement saying he spoke with British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Sunday and that they "strongly condemned the hostage situation."

"This war is against the Afghan nation and we know who will win," Karzai said.

The United Nations expressed relief that the hostages appeared unharmed and appealed for their immediate release. It has said there are no plans to pull staff out of the country, though its foreign workers have been ordered to avoid shops and restaurants and keep a 9 p.m. curfew. Intelligence officials say Jaish-ul-Muslimeen emerged about five months ago to carry out minor attacks in southern Afghanistan, including ambushes on fuel trucks supplying American bases.

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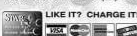


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## Oil firm fails to block Nigeria strike

Oil giant Royal Dutch/Shell Group opened court action Monday in Nigeria to block a threatened strike targeting oil in the world's No. 7 crude exporter but lost a first-round bid for an interim injunction quelling the unions.

Launch of the case comes a day after Nigeria's union leaders called the Nov. 16 strike over rising fuel prices here.

Unions promised to target Shell — as the top multinational in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country — as an "enemy" of the people for pursuing court action against the strike.

## Dam protest in western China leaves one dead

SHANGHAI, China — Police in western China beat one man to death during a riot attended by tens of thousands of people to protest the building of a massive dam that will force them from their homes, a newspaper and residents said Monday.

More than 50,000 villagers from three townships affected by the Pubugou dam in Sichuan province's Hanyan county descended on the dam's construction site on Wednesday, chanting slogans such as "long live the Communist Party of China," and "down with corrupt officials," Hong Kong's Apple Daily reported.

Protesters braved two nights in the cold without shelter while police brought in reinforcements, it said. Fighting broke out on Friday and police welding bricks beat to death a man in his 30s, the report said, quoting villagers.

Following the clash, tens of thousands of villagers carried the man's body to government headquarters, where students boycotted classes, and markets and shops were shuttered.

From The Associated Press

# China imposes martial law on town after deadly riots

By AUDRA ANG

The Associated Press

LANGCHENGANG, China — Police imposed martial law on a town in central China after violence between hundreds of members of the Han ethnic majority and Hui Muslims killed at least seven people, residents and a local official said Monday.

A county government spokesman said at least one person was killed in the fighting last week, while residents contacted by phone gave a higher death toll. They said up to 500 rioters fought on Friday with sticks and burned several houses.

On Monday, martial law was imposed, according to residents.

Thousands of police lined the road into the town. They stopped cars at checkpoints outside town, but it wasn't clear whether any were turned away. Foreign reporters who visited the area were detained.

Government militants with loudspeakers strapped to their roofs drove through the town broadcasting appeals for calm.

Residents of Langchengang, near the major city of Zhengzhou in Henan province, could not confirm a report by The New York Times that as many as 148 people had been killed.

There were conflicting accounts of why the violence began, but all involved a clash between Han and Hui.

The Times said it erupted after a Han girl was struck and killed on Friday by a Hui taxi driver. A local resident, an accountant who would give only his surname, Liu, said it began after three Hui men in a car beat up a 17-year-old Han boy who blocked the street.

That confrontation escalated until a group of 400-500 Hui came from a nearby town and large-scale clashes erupted, Liu said.

A spokesman for the county government gave a different account, saying the violence began after a collision Wednesday between two farm vehicles, one driven by a Han and the other by a Hui.

The two men summoned help from relatives and fighting broke out, said the spokesman, Liang Songzhou. He said the violence spread on Thursday and Friday. In addition to the one confirmed death, he said there might have been an additional two deaths.

"This has nothing to do with ethnicity," insisted

Liang, deputy director of the county Propaganda Office.

There were no reports about the violence in China's entirely state-controlled media. The communist government routinely suppresses news of ethnic conflict. Several residents said local officials had told them not to give information to reporters.

"A lot of people were carrying clubs to fight. They set fire to several houses," said another Langchengang resident surnamed Liu, who was no relation to the accountant. "Right now, there are lots of police. The local government is allowing residents to move around but everyone is afraid of going out."

The town was still tense Monday, according to a man contacted by phone who said he lived a half-mile from the scene of the fighting.

"I still dare not leave the house," said the man, who would give only his surname, Li. "To the west and east are Hui villages. So people are afraid to go outside."

However, there were no signs of unrest. A reporter who visited the town saw residents sitting outside shabby brick houses beside piles of drying corn.

Shattered glass was scattered across the road in the adjacent village of Wetan. Villagers said the debris was left over from an altercation between soldiers and a group of men, but it wasn't clear whether the men were Hui or Han.

Hui are ethnic Chinese whose ancestors converted to Islam. Han Chinese make up more than 90 percent of China's 1.3 billion people.

The country has 55 officially recognized ethnic groups.

China suffers occasional tensions between ethnic groups.

They are aggravated in many parts of China's poor countryside, home to some 800 million people, by disputes over rights to scarce farmland and control of lucrative government posts.

Henan, with about 100 million people, is one of China's most densely populated regions.

In December 2000, at least five Hui were shot and killed by police during protests in the eastern province of Shandong after a fight between a Hui and a Han butcher advertising "Muslim pork."

Muslim dietary laws forbid the eating of pork.

## Christian Ministries Far East

Pastor Charles A. Hall



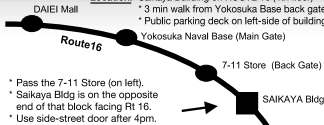
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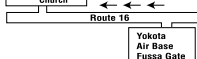
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## IN THE STATES

## Rehnquist's health delays return to bench

BY GINA HOLLAND  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist disclosed Monday that he's undergoing radiation and chemotherapy for thyroid cancer and said he is delaying his expected return to the Supreme Court, a sign he may have a more serious form of the illness.

Rehnquist had planned to join fellow justices when they were back on the bench after a two-week break. But instead he issued a statement saying "at the suggestion of my doctors, [I] am continuing to recuperate at home."

Rehnquist was released from a Maryland hospital last Friday after undergoing surgery to have a tube inserted in his throat to help his breathing.

The court has released no details about his weeklong stay at Bethesda Naval Medical Center, except to say that he had a trache-



William H. Rehnquist

otomy. The type of thyroid cancer and its severity have not been disclosed.

Rehnquist, 80, revealed the cancer diagnosis a week ago, prompting speculation about a court vacancy for the first time in more than a decade. The winner of

Tuesday's presidential election is expected to name one or more justices to a court that is deeply divided on issues such as abortion, affirmative action and the death penalty.

Dr. Ann M. Gillenwater of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston said that the combination of chemotherapy and radiation is the normal treatment for anaplastic thyroid cancer, a more serious type.

Rehnquist, a conservative who has been on the court since 1972 and chief justice since 1986, has had other health problems including chronic back pain and a torn leg tendon that required surgery.

In the statement, Rehnquist said he was receiving outpatient radiation and chemotherapy. Cancer of the thyroid, a gland in the neck that produces hormones to help regulate the body's use of energy, is generally treatable but can be more aggressive in older people.

## Court lets Va. neglect ruling stand

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court let stand Monday the conviction of a Virginia man in the death of his 21-month-old daughter in a sweltering van.

The court, without comment, denied the appeal of Kevin C. Kelly in the death of Frances Kelly, who was found dead in May 2002 after she was left in the van for seven hours.

In his appeal, Kelly said he could not be held criminally negligent because he had instructed his older children to take their younger siblings out of the van. Kelly argued he never checked on her because he assumed she was sleeping in the house.

But the Virginia Court of Appeals disagreed, stating that there was enough evidence at trial to show Kelly should have done more to look after Frances.

In other business Monday:

■ Assisted suicide advocate Jack Kevorkian lost an appeal in his bid to win freedom after five years in prison.

Justices, without comment, turned back an appeal in which Kevorkian claimed he had an ineffective attorney when he was convicted of second-degree murder in the 1998 poisoning of Thomas Youk.

■ The court will decide whether local governments can be sued for failing to enforce restraining orders, using the case of a Colorado mother whose three daughters were killed by their father.

Justices will decide if the mother can pursue a \$30 million lawsuit against the city, on grounds that her constitutional due process rights were violated because the city did not enforce the restraining order.

## Study: Nonpowder guns injure thousands yearly

BY LINDSEY TANNER  
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — A study has found that air rifles, paintball pistols and BB guns injure as many as 21,000 Americans each year, underscoring the notion that such weapons are harmless in the hands of young people.

Nonpowder guns kill an average of four Americans yearly, and from 1990 to 2000, there were 39 such deaths — 32 of children younger than 15, according to a report in November's issue of Pediatrics.

The report, published Monday, comes just two weeks after the BB gun death of an 8-year-old South Carolina boy accidentally killed by a 13-year-old friend. The pellet pierced the boy's heart, said Richland County Coroner Gary Watts.

"These are not the kinds of BB guns that I grew up with," Watts said. Today's BB guns "are extremely high-powered," and some can shoot with a velocity nearly matching a .22 caliber rifle, Watts said.

Nonpowder guns include powerful air rifles introduced in the 1970s and paintball pistols used in war games. They're sometimes described as fake guns and often given to children as gifts, but the report says they can cause internal injuries.

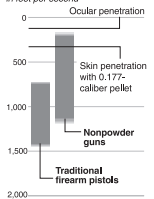
Nationally, an estimated 21,840 injuries related to nonpowder guns were treated in emergency departments in 2000 — most in children aged 5 to 14, according to the report prepared by the American Academy of Pediatrics' Committee on Injury, Violence and Prevention.

Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show

## Nonpowder guns

Nonpowder guns such as pellet-and paintball guns do not use gunpowder, but compressed air to shoot. Nevertheless, the muzzle velocity of some of these guns can match firearms.

MUZZLE VELOCITY  
in feet per second



SOURCE: American Academy of Pediatrics AP

there were 19,163 nonpowder gun injuries last year.

Most states have laws or regulations governing nonpowder guns.

New York's is one of the strictest, prohibiting the purchase or unsupervised use by someone younger than 16 years, the Pediatrics report said.

While some models of air guns and BB guns are marketed specifically to youngsters, manufacturers and sellers also stress that they should be handled like legitimate firearms.

"They're being given as toys without recognition that there may be a serious injury risk," said report author Dr. Danielle Laraque, a New York pediatrician.

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# WHO sets date for flu vaccine summit

BY MARILYNN MARCHIONE

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With increasing signs that bird flu is becoming established in Asia and a shortage of flu vaccine in America, health officials from several nations and more than a dozen vaccine companies plan to meet this month for an unprecedented summit to tackle the issue.

Sixteen vaccine companies and health officials from the United States and other large countries already have agreed to attend the summit in Geneva, Switzerland, on Nov. 11, said Klaus Stohr, influenza chief of the United Nations' health agency, the World Health Organization.

Scientists fear that if the bird flu virus mutates enough to mix

with the human influenza virus it could easily pass between humans and trigger a global pandemic.

"We believe that we are closer to the next pandemic than we ever were," Stohr said Sunday in an interview before a speech at an American Society for Microbiology meeting in Washington, D.C.

Stohr said several European countries had been invited to the meeting, but he declined to name them. Vaccine makers in Russia and Japan were also invited.

The world's total capacity for flu vaccine now is only 300 mil-

lion doses, and it would take at least six months to develop a new vaccine to fight a pandemic. The WHO wants to get "all issues on the table," monetary and scientific, that prevent getting more vaccine more quickly, he said.

"If we continue as we are now, there will be no vaccine available, let alone antivirals, when the next pandemic starts," Stohr said. "We have a window of opportunity now to prepare ourselves."

Flu kills about 36,000 people in the United States and a million worldwide each year by conservative estimates, Stohr said. But

**"We believe that we are closer to the next pandemic than we ever were."**

Klaus Stohr

World Health Organization influenza chief

tens of millions die in a pandemic, which occurs every 20 to 30 years, when a flu strain changes so dramatically that people have little immunity from previous flu bouts.

There were three pandemics in the 20th century; all spread worldwide within a year of being detected.

The worst was the Spanish flu in 1918-19, when as many as 50 million people worldwide were thought to have died, nearly half of them young, healthy adults. More than 500,000 died in the United States.

The 1957-58 Asian flu caused about 70,000 deaths in the United States, followed by the 1968-69 Hong Kong flu, which caused about 34,000 U.S. deaths.

The current vaccine shortage in the United States, caused by loss of one of the country's two major flu shot suppliers, reveals how vulnerable the world is and serves as a "dress rehearsal" for the kind of rationing and emergency measures that would be needed in a pandemic, said Dr. Wendy Keitel of Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

"The ability to respond with the production of billions of doses of vaccine is quite limited," Keitel said. "We need to think through these problems now. Ninety percent of vaccines are produced in 10 countries that have 10 percent of the world's population."

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## FDA says olive oil could help boost heart health

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The monounsaturated fat in olive oil may reduce the chances of suffering coronary heart disease, the Food and Drug Administration said Monday, opening the door to revised food labels.

As long as people don't increase the number of calories they consume daily, the FDA found "limited but not conclusive evidence" suggesting reduced risk of coronary heart disease when people replace foods high in saturated fat with the monounsaturated fat in olive oil.

According to the American Heart Association, coronary heart disease accounted for 502,189 deaths — or one in five deaths — in 2001, the most current statistic available. Another 13.2 million Americans that year survived the heart attacks, chest pains and other ailments caused by coronary heart disease.

Along with lowering cholesterol, cutting out cigarettes and exercising, the group says Americans can boost heart health by eating foods low in saturated fat, cholesterol and sodium. An American Heart Association spokesman declined comment.

"Since CHD is the No. 1 killer of both men and women in the United States, it is a public health priority to make sure that consumers have accurate and useful information on reducing their risk," Lester M. Crawford, acting FDA commissioner said in a prepared statement.

It's the third time the FDA granted a qualified health claim for conventional food.

Olive oil and certain food containing olive oil can now indicate that "limited and not conclusive scientific evidence suggests that eating about two tablespoons of olive oil daily may reduce the risk of coronary heart disease due to the monounsaturated fat in olive oil," the agency said.

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# Presidential race down to the wire

## Bush, Kerry visit swing states on final day of campaign

The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — President Bush and Democratic challenger John Kerry raced through a frenzied last day of campaigning Monday, pressing hard for support in Ohio, Wisconsin and other narrowly divided states in a presidential election still too close to call.

Squeezing every dwindling hour for campaigning, Bush laid out a six-state, seven-stop tour stretching from early morning into late night, mostly in the Midwest. Kerry was working the heartland for a final time, too, after a morning stop in Florida, scene of the disputed 2000 vote that gave Bush the presidency.

At an airport rally in Ohio, where more than 200,000 jobs have been lost in the past four years, Bush said, "I know the economy of this state has been through a lot, but we are moving in the right direction."

"We have to keep your taxes low and I want you to remind your friends and neighbors that my opponent will raise the taxes on Ohio's families and Ohio's small businesses," Bush asserted.

Kerry, saying he felt "fabulous," headed for Wisconsin, a state Al Gore won in 2000 and the Democrats cannot afford to lose this year.

Both sides had get-out-the-vote armies primed for action, plus lawyers deployed across the country ready to throw any photo finish into court at the first sign of polling-place irregularities.

The long, bruising campaign was finally ending, surely not a moment too soon for the combatants. Kerry occasionally coughed during his speech at a

Tampa, Fla., rally Sunday night, which in the past has been an early sign of losing his voice.

Bush stocked up on lozenges and cut down or eliminated caffeine, which constricts the vocal cords, said adviser Karl Rove, who figured the president's voice would be hoarse in any event anyway. Asked what Bush is doing to save his voice, Rove cracked, "Just chewing on me less every day."

Bush pitched his case for continuity in the war on terrorism before tens of thousands filling the Great American Ballpark in Cincinnati on Sunday night, the fifth consecutive day he campaigned in Ohio.

The Democrat summed up his case before a crowd of thousands Sunday night in a Tampa park, the city's high-rise buildings as backdrop.

"This is the moment to hold George Bush accountable for the deficits, for the loss of health care, for the loss of jobs, for the loss of America's influence and respect in the world," he said. "This is the moment to restore our hopes and dreams and bring back the vision of this country."

Bush was stumping in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Iowa and New Mexico on Monday before a final rally in Dallas.

Kerry was campaigning in Ohio, Wisconsin and Michigan on the campaign's last day before returning home to Massachusetts.

Kerry's running mate, Sen. John Edwards, campaigned in Minnesota, saying, "The American dream is on the ballot." Vice President Dick Cheney, appearing in Colorado, said, "If you want my opinion, John Kerry's goose is cooked."



Democratic candidate Sen. John Kerry greets supporters at a rally Monday at Orlando International Airport in Orlando, Fla.



President Bush greets and shakes hands with supporters after speaking at campaign rally at ABX Air Hangar on Monday in Wilmington, Ohio.

## Polls show vote too close to call

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Voter turnout is likely to be higher than in recent presidential elections — especially among young voters — in a very close race, weekend polls suggest.

Those polls suggest the race is very close nationally, with some polls showing President Bush and Democratic Sen. John Kerry even and another showing Bush slightly ahead.

Bush has a slight edge at 48 percent and Kerry at 45 percent in a Pew Research Center poll, while several national polls released this weekend showed the race even.

New polls show Bush and Kerry knotted in key states like Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Minnesota and New Hampshire.

More than eight in 10 regis-

tered voters in the Pew poll, 84 percent, describe this election as especially important, compared with 67 percent in 2000 and 61 percent in 1996.

Pew pollster Andrew Kohut said the poll suggests turnout could be as high or slightly higher than in 1992, when it was more than 55 percent of those eligible to vote — based on his analysis of voter enthusiasm.

Bush had more intense support from his backers than Kerry, though both get the backing of about nine in 10 in their own parties.

The poll suggested the two candidates are running about even among early voters.

The Pew poll of 2,408 registered voters and 1,925 likely voters was taken Oct. 27-Oct. 30 and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points.

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Photo courtesy of Las Vegas News Bureau

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# Candidate updates counter claims in war on terror

## Cheney invokes Pearl Harbor at late-night rally in Hawaii

By PETE YOST  
The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Invoking memories of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Vice President Dick Cheney told a late-night campaign rally Sunday that rival John Kerry neither understands nor has a plan to win today's war on terror.

In a 3,225-mile detour from the mainland battleground states, the vice president made the most of a visit to traditionally Democratic Hawaii by ripping into Kerry in the final hours of the campaign.

"We are standing just a few miles from Pearl Harbor, the site of a sudden attack ... Three years ago, America faced another sudden attack," Cheney told a crowd estimated by his aides at 9,000, the vice president's biggest crowd at a campaign event.

Cheney said that "the clearest, most important difference in this campaign is simple to state: President Bush understands the war on terror and has a strategy for winning it. John Kerry does not."

Though it seems a huge task for Bush to actually win a state that has been a Democratic stronghold, Cheney's overnight trip is aimed at defusing the perception the president's re-election is assured.

Nationally, however, the latest national polls show the race to be extremely tight. Cheney spoke to a crowd inside the convention center as outside, some 80 people gathered across the street carrying signs in support of Kerry and running mate John Edwards. Several demonstrators inside the convention center briefly interrupted Cheney's remarks, but they were drowned out by audience chants of "four more years."

The vice president's remarks on national security paralleled the basic campaign speech he has been giving for months, with the added punch of tying together the sneak attack that began U.S. involvement in World War II with the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The Kerry campaign says the senator



Vice President Dick Cheney waves to the crowd before leaving a Republican rally at the Hawaii Convention Center in Honolulu on Sunday.

has spent the better part of his career working on behalf of the military and that he has been concerned about the consequences of giving the president a blank check in Iraq. "We're seeing the consequences of that in Iraq. It's a tragedy," Kerry campaign spokesman Phil Singer said Sunday.

Cheney told the cheering crowd in Honolulu, "Now in the final days of this campaign, John Kerry is running around talking tough. He's trying every which way to cover up his record of weakness on national defense. But he can't do it. It won't work."

The vice president then delivered what he tells critics is his favorite line: "As I like to say in Wyoming, you can put all the lipstick you want on a pig, but at the end of the day, it'll still be a pig!" The line drew such a roar that Cheney, as he sometimes does, asked if the crowd wanted to hear it again. They did, and he repeated it.

## Kerry says he would move quickly on national security

By MARY DALRYMPLE  
AND NEDRA PICKLER  
The Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Democrat John Kerry says he plans "very strong and real steps" to buttress national security if elected president.

"If the American people make me president Tuesday, they will see a flurry of activity and leadership with respect to our national security interests that they've never seen, but I'm going to wait until I'm there," Kerry said in an interview Sunday with The Associated Press.

With Osama bin Laden still at large and security uncertain in Iraq, Kerry declined to talk about specific plans. "I'm going to make America safer and I have some very strong and real steps to take quite immediately to make that happen," he said in an interview aboard his campaign plane.

With the outcome of the race still too close to call, the Massachusetts senator talked both in terms of "if I win" and "when I win." He said he's prepared to raise legal challenges if problems arise at the polls, and he said he's tired but confident and eager to end the campaign.

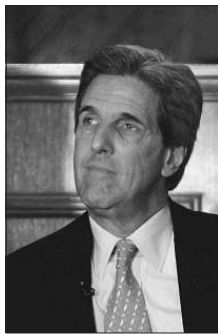
"Sure I'm tired. I've been campaigning for almost two years now," Kerry said. "I know we can make life better for people in America and I'm excited by it."

"I think Americans are going to vote for change," he said.

If Kerry is elected, the country will switch presidents in wartime for the first time since Lyndon Johnson left office after Richard Nixon was elected in 1968.

Kerry said he is not concerned that President Bush is preparing an attack in the Iraqi city of Fallujah, which could be carried out with Bush as a lame duck before Kerry takes office on Jan. 20.

If he wins, Kerry said, he would begin putting his Cabinet together "as fast as I



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry listens to a sermon during Sunday services at the Shiloh Baptist Church in Dayton, Ohio.

can." Some names being mentioned for his national security team include former United Nations Ambassador Richard Holbrooke and Delaware Sen. Joseph Biden, senior Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee.

Kerry also said:

■ He supports the Electoral College system for selecting a president, calling it "actually quite genius" for its ability to give smaller states a voice in the election.

■ He would keep the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives created by Bush and predicted he would see more success by drawing a clear line between religious activity and social aid.

■ He has run "a very positive campaign" without negative ads.

Kerry's campaign is running several state-specific spots that assail the president, though.

# Votes on gay marriage could sway some battleground states

By TIM JONES  
Chicago Tribune

Voters in 11 states will decide Tuesday whether to ban gay marriage, and two of those states — the political battlegrounds of Michigan and Ohio — will be watched closely to see if the emotional issue might tilt the outcome of the tight presidential race.

As much as the amendments themselves, the political pull of this issue will be tested.

State legislatures have moved with unusual speed to place constitutional bans on gay marriage before voters, the issue has not overtaken voter concerns about the economy, health care, the war in Iraq and the fight against terrorism.

But political analysts say the proposals could encourage additional turnout from people concerned about the issue and provide the margin of victory in tossup states like Michigan, with 17 electoral votes, and Ohio, with 20. In Missouri, for instance, the first state to approve a constitutional ban on gay marriage this year, almost 1.5 million people cast ballots on the marriage amendment. August's tally, roughly 40,000 more than the total vote in the

state's hotly contested gubernatorial primary election.

Pre-election polls in Missouri showed about 60 percent of voters supported the measure. The proposal passed with a whopping 71 percent. Louisiana voters approved a similar ban in September, with 78 percent.

Interviews with registered voters around the country show morality-based issues — abortion, prayer in school, religion, gay marriage — are prominent concerns, especially among Republicans.

What that means for Election Day, however, is not clear because these issues cross party lines and are not exclusively identified with particular candidates.

"You may see a 3 to 4 percentage point increase in turnout over 2000," John Green, a political scientist at the University of Akron, said of the Ohio ballot measure.

"You have to make a lot of guesses about this," said Green, who studies the relationship of politics and religion. "A lot of these people may not vote for (President) Bush. Some African-Americans will come out for the marriage amendment, but they will vote for (Sen.) John Kerry."

Ed Sarpoulos, vice president of

EPIC-MRA, a Michigan-based public research firm, said the gay marriage proposal "may add a percent."

"It will have an impact? Some. Significant? No," Sarpoulos said.

On Tuesday, Oregon, Montana, Utah, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, Georgia, Kentucky, Ohio and Michigan will decide proposed constitutional amendments that would say marriage is a union between a man and a woman.

Nearly all opinion polls have shown the measures getting strong, if not overwhelming, support. An Ohio poll from the University of Cincinnati released last week showed 57 percent of voters intend to vote for the measure, while 40 percent signaled their opposition. That represents an 8-percentage-point drop in support from September, the poll said.

The Ohio poll said 73 percent of likely voters who say they will vote for Bush would vote for the ban. Kerry voters are against the amendment, 55 percent to 42 percent, the poll said.

The proposals are likely to have the greatest effect energizing the Christian conservative voters, the voting base, Green said. A poll released Thursday by

the National Annenberg Election Survey showed four percent of voters ranked moral values as their most important issue, with the biggest support coming from white born-again Christians and people who attend religious services more than once a week.

Kenneth Warren, a political scientist and pollster at St. Louis University, said primary and general elections are different political exercises. Although more voters cast ballots for the gay marriage proposal than in the gubernatorial race in Missouri, Warren noted people not interested in politics could request individual nonpartisan ballots that did not offer choices in the governor's race. He said a gambling proposal that was also on the ballot drew almost the same number of votes as the marriage amendment.

Warren said the contentious battle for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination — incumbent Bob Holden was ousted by Claire McCaskill, the first time in Missouri history a governor had been removed in a primary — drew voters to the polls in record numbers.

"If you're not motivated to turn out in a presidential race," Warren said, "you're not going to be motivated to turn out for a ballot proposal."



# Campaigns already mulling mistakes

BY ANN MCFEATHERS

Toledo (Ohio) Blade

With many pollsters saying the presidential race is so close there are uncomfortable predicting a winner, strategists for both the Bush and Kerry campaigns are beginning to mull the high points and low points of the general campaign. What do they wish they had done differently? What are they most pleased that they did?

From President Bush's perspective, how did an incumbent president who had a 90 percent job-approval rating after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks get to the point where he is in a dead heat with a senator from Massachusetts who was virtually unknown a year ago?

From Sen. John Kerry's perspective, why is he not doing better against a president who presides over a country where most of the population thinks the country is headed in the wrong direction, worries about the economy and believes the war has been handled badly?

Ken Mehlman, campaign manager for the Bush campaign, said he is confident that Bush will be re-elected because he is gaining momentum in battleground states. But he also conceded that the flood of bad news this year — from the lack of flu vaccine to the Iraqi pris-

on scandal, the ongoing insurgency in Iraq, the FBI's investigation of whether Vice President Dick Cheney's old firm, Halliburton, was improperly awarded a lucrative contract — all have hurt the president.

He said Kerry's worst mistakes were saying he voted both for and against \$87 billion for the war in Iraq, which gave the Bush campaign the "senator flip-flop" videotape they played over and over, and spending too much time on his Vietnam War record at the Boston convention. That meant that Kerry spent much of the rest of the summer as prey to the Swift Boat Veterans' ad that he abandoned his fellow veterans by his antiwar efforts and trying to convince Democratic veterans again he should be elected.

Mehlman also said that by not concentrating on his Senate record early enough, Kerry opened himself up to charges he had done little in the Senate for 20 years.

Doug Sosnick, a Clinton White House political director who now advises Kerry, insists Kerry will win because he is ahead in polling among the 10 percent of Americans who have voted. He said Bush's biggest mistake was declaring "mission accomplished" in May 2003, when the war in Iraq was far from over. For a

long time, Sosnick said, he feared the Kerry campaign's worst mistake was not running national advertising in August and much of September, but said he is beginning to think now that saving money for later in the campaign might have been wise.

Tad Devine, a senior strategist for the Kerry campaign who pushed for "going dark" in August and September to conserve resources, said Bush's high point in the campaign was his acceptance speech at the New York convention and Kerry's high point was the first debate.

He said Kerry's low point was in not answering the Swift Boat Veterans' ads criticizing him for opposing the war in Vietnam after he returned home. Devine said Bush's low point was his performance in the first debate, where many Americans thought for the first time that Kerry was qualified to be president.

Democrats also think Bush has been hurt significantly by the apparent revelation that more than 350 tons of explosives were stolen from Iraqi bunkers because they were not secured by U.S. troops. But Matthew Dowd, a senior Bush strategist and a pollster, said Kerry has miscalculated by focusing on that issue, which is distracting voters. Letting Kerry rush to judgment without the facts and has kept Kerry from focusing on domestic issues.

## Democrats walk a fine line with party star

BY LARRY MARGASAK

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Some Democrats running for the Senate in Republican-leaning states say they want to be more like President Bush clearing brush in Crawford, Texas, than John Kerry wind-surfing off Nantucket Island, Mass.

Democratic chances of retaining control of the Senate may depend on candidates who run away from their party platform and their presidential contender.

"We've got eight or nine really competitive races and just about all are in strong Bush states," said Larry Sabato, director of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia.

"Democrats have some bad luck here."

Republicans control the Senate 51-48 with one Democratic-leaning independent, but the minority party's gap becomes wider on an election map where most of the races are in states likely to go for Bush.

The need to persuade Bush voters in conservative states to split their tickets has led to strong pledges of independence — and support of some Republican positions — by several Democratic candidates.

For instance, Rep. Brad Carson, running for a Senate seat against former Republican Rep. Tom Coburn in Oklahoma, said state voters "look at George Bush in this presidential race and they say, 'Oh, that's me. He's clearing brush in Crawford. John Kerry is wind-surfing off Nantucket.'"

Carson is trying to win in a state that gave Bush a 22-point margin over Al Gore. He wears cowboy boots and jeans and drives a beat-up pickup truck. He's also benefited from some of his opponents' strident comments.

Coburn, an obstetrician, has said he favors the death penalty for abortionists, called state legislators "a bunch of crapheads" and referred to "rampant lesbianism" in some Oklahoma schools.

"Coburn's stock in trade is he was forthright, he said what he thought and was earnest," said Keith Gaddie, a University of Oklahoma political science professor. "Democrats have to find a way to run as far to the right as possible while holding on to the Democratic base."

And in South Dakota, the Senate's top Democrat, Minority Leader Tom Daschle, has run an ad showing him embracing the president when Bush spoke to Congress shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. The message was that Daschle was with Bush when necessary.

# Cluttered ballot confuses California voters

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOM

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — It's the stem-cell, three-strikes, closed-primary, DNA-arrest and lawsuit-limiting election.

Confused? So are a lot of voters here.

Besides voting for president, Californians are facing a catalog of ballot questions so challenging — 16 in all, more than any other state — that virtually everyone at one early-voting location was clutching a cheat sheet to keep the numbers and issues straight.

Was Proposition 63 the one about slot machines at horse tracks, or was that Proposition 68? Which was the one that would raise taxes on millionaires? Is the governor supporting Proposition 62, or is it 60? "I find it incredibly confusing, and I'm resentful," said Los Angeles artist Shelley Adler, who was shuffling toward the voting booth at a downtown library last week. "I'm very smart, and it's difficult for me."

With conflicting information in TV ads and pouring into mailboxes, "It's almost a tab in the dark," said schoolteacher Paula Scarborough, who was consulting scribbled notes while waiting to vote. "I always feel like I'm being fooled."

It's not the first time voters here have faced an Election Day puzzle under California's system of direct democracy, in which anyone who collects enough signatures can place a proposal on the ballot.

Actually, this year is far from the worst. The record for a cluttered ballot was set in 1914, when voters had to sift through 48 questions. Since 1912, state elections have averaged 18 ballot questions, according to the Initiative & Referendum Institute at the University of Southern California.

Over the years voters have con-



Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger holds up a sign showing his opposition to California Propositions 68 and 29 during a rally in Del Mar, Calif., on Saturday. Californians are facing a catalog of ballot questions so challenging — 16 in all, more than any other state — that virtually everyone at one early-voting location was clutching a cheat sheet to keep the numbers and issues straight.

sidered everything from whether gay teachers should be outlawed from schools (no, 1978) or if it should be illegal to sell horses for meat (yes, 1998).

But even this year's tally of questions — some of them on the same subject — can leave voters perplexed.

So where to turn for help? If you glance at the text of Proposition 71, which would authorize

the state to borrow \$3 billion for stem cell research, you'll learn that "pluripotent stem cells may be derived from somatic cell nuclear transfer."

The text of proposition 1-A, which would discourage the state from raising local government funds, makes clear that "a suspension of subparagraph (A) shall not result in a total ad valorem property tax revenue loss to all local agencies within a county

that exceeds 8 percent of the total amount of ad valorem property tax revenues that were allocated among all local agencies within that county for the fiscal year immediately preceding the fiscal year for which subparagraph (A) is suspended."

There are 126 words in the text of Proposition 60, but after reading it you learn that the proposal essentially does nothing — it affirms the primary-election system the state already uses.

Why? It's an apparent attempt to undercut rival Proposition 62, which would dump political party primaries in state elections.

"When you read them, they are never really clear," said Deborah Weiser, a Los Angeles attorney who was waiting to vote last week.

"Most people are focused on who's going to be president," Weiser added. As for understanding the small print in ballot questions, "There are just too many — unless you're obsessed."

The 16 questions cover issues as complex as stem cell research (Proposition 71), allowing the state to collect a DNA sample from anyone arrested for a felony (Proposition 69), limiting lawsuits that accuse businesses of engaging in unfair competition (Proposition 64), rolling back aspects of the state's three-strikes sentencing law (Proposition 66) and allowing racetracks and card rooms to operate 30,000 slot machines in six counties (Proposition 68).

Survey research has suggested that many voters do not understand the details of propositions when they vote. Some experts think a dense ballot can portend a higher failure rate.

"When in doubt, people tend to vote no," said Sherry Bechtel Jeffe, a professor of political science at USC. "It's a tried and true axiom."

"I always take my sample ballot — I could never remember," she added.

# Observers to monitor U.S. vote for first time

BY JOHN-THOR DALBORG

The Los Angeles Times

MIAMI — If they can get in the door, election observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe will be keeping an outsider's eye on the U.S. voting process Tuesday.

For the first time, machinery created at U.S. government prompting to foster the spread of democratic elections throughout the former Soviet bloc is being used to assess how freely and fairly America chooses its chief executive.

On Tuesday, at least 75 election monitors from OSCE, an intergovernmental organization founded to help bridge the East-West divide during the Cold War, plan to be on the ground in precincts from coast to coast to observe and deliver an independent evaluation of how America chooses its chief executive.

Under its commitments as an OSCE member, the United States is required to invite the outside scrutiny of its electoral process.

What the observers will be able to see firsthand, though, is still unclear.

Konrad Olszewski has flown to Florida as part of the international team, but the elections adviser from Poland said Saturday he might not be able to get very close to the ballot box.

Olszewski and another foreign observer from Canada were received courteously the previous day by Florida Secretary of State Glenda Hood, but told that under the laws of this state, poll-watchers must be registered voters in the county where they desire to observe the voting, and must submit written applications in advance, said Alia Faraj, Hood's spokeswoman.

Olszewski said he came to his meeting with Hood in Tallahassee bearing documents from the U.S. State Department attesting his status, but that made no difference as far as Florida law and officials were concerned.

"The secretary of state wel-

comed us, but said she really had no authority to give us access (to the polls) on Election Day," Olszewski, a former journalist with the Polish newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza, said.

As of Saturday afternoon, Olszewski was in Miami, meeting with Miami-Dade County election officials and becoming resigned to the likelihood he would not be able to get inside polling places Tuesday.

"I'm not very optimistic at the moment," he said. But, Olszewski said, he was being allowed in Miami to observe early voting and the opening of mail-in absentee ballots, and he had been told he could be present for the tallying of results.

Urdur Gunnarsdottir, spokeswoman for the OSCE mission, said problems similar to those Olszewski is encountering have been cropping up in numerous locales because the United States, unlike many countries, has a decentralized elections system.

"It's taking us a lot of time to get access to polling stations because we have to go to each and every county," Gunnarsdottir said from Washington, D.C. "I do not exclude that there will be polling places where we can't enter. But I don't believe we've exhausted all our means yet. We're still talking to people, and getting great help from the Federal Election Commission, the State Department."

Andrew Bruce, 34, a Briton who has been observing elections for the OSCE for four years, said he was planning to be in Ohio on Tuesday, but that he didn't know whether he'd be allowed to watch people actually vote. During a trip last week to Pennsylvania, Bruce said he and a fellow election monitor from Russia had tried to meet with that state's secretary of state and director of elections in Harrisburg, the state capital, but had to settle for a telephone conversation with the secretary's chief of staff.

"There is so little awareness of the OSCE here," Bruce said.

The idea of outside observers at a U.S. election doesn't sit well with all American politicians.

"It strikes me as somewhat presumptuous that someone from a foreign land who is unfamiliar with our institutions and traditions would come in here and act as judge and jury on our elections," said Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas. "And it is setting a precedent. What is it going to be like in 15-20 years? Could the United Nations then be running American elections?"

The current OSCE mission's self-assigned task is not to tell Americans how to conduct their elections, but to gauge how the Help America Vote Act is applied in practice, Bruce said. That U.S. law, signed by President Bush in 2002, sets minimum standards for the states to follow in key areas of running elections, and provides federal funds to help pay for the upgrading and modernization of voting machines.

## TV networks planning to track irregularities

BY DAVID BAUDER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Before 2000, the idea of television Election Night coverage was pretty simple: Count votes as fast as you can and explain why people voted the way they did.

Two trends in this year's plans show the residual impact of hanging chads and blown calls. Networks are intent on following potential voter irregularities and laying bare their own decision-making processes as results flood in.

ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox, PBS, CNN, Fox News Channel and MSNBC will all devote prime time to election results Tuesday night. Smaller networks with specialized audiences, like BET and MTV, have unprecedented coverage because of the intense interest in the presidential race.

Chip Reid will be stationed at the "Making Your Vote Count" desk at NBC News. ABC's Jake Tapper will deliver "Ballot Watch" reports. Mika Brzezinski at CBS, Major Garrett at Fox

News Channel and Jeffrey Toobin at CNN all have the same assignments: Comb the country for reports of potential fraud or disenfranchised voters.

"We all got a civics lesson in 2000 so what we feel we need is some good intelligence with secretaries of state in every battleground state," said Paul Mason, ABC News senior vice president.

"After the election, the story will be about how broken the election system is," NBC's Tom Brokaw said.

Networks also want to rebuild public confidence in their performance after the 2000 disaster. You'll recall them declaring Al Gore the winner in Florida, rescinding it, giving Florida and the presidency to George Bush, then having to wait several weeks before a court fight settled the outcome.

ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, Fox News Channel and The Associated Press collaborated to construct a new exit polling system from scratch. The AP will also be the sole source for a nationwide vote tabulation.



Workers put the finishing touches on the NBC News election studios overlooking the Rockefeller Center skating rink in New York. Broadcast networks will devote their prime time to election coverage on Tuesday.

## Fla. hopes 2004 isn't a repeat of 2000 — but it could happen

BY DAVID ROYSE

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The state that turned the 2000 U.S. presidential election into turmoil with confusing butterfly ballots and hanging chads is conducting elections differently this time around, embarrassed into overhauling everything from its machinery to its recount rules.

But one thing is still the same going into Election Day — it's far from clear who is going to win the state, and the prospect of another recount remains.

The most obvious change that Florida has made since 2000 is its equipment — the infamous punch-card ballots with their hanging and pregnant chads have been replaced by electronic scan systems and touch-screen machines.

Most of Florida will use the optical scan systems, which worked pretty well four years ago. Voters fill in an oval or complete an incomplete line on a paper ballot to indicate their choice, and an optical scanner reads their ballot.

Fifteen counties use touch-screen machines, where voters indicate their selec-

tion by touching spaces on a computer screen. There is no paper ballot.

Congress also required states to offer provisional ballots, which allow people to vote even if they're told they're not on a precinct's voter lists. Elections officials will later verify if the ballots are legal and count them if they are.

If the initial returns indicate the margin of victory in a particular race is one-half of 1 percent or less, local elections officials must order a machine recount, unless the losing candidate declines.

In the 52 counties that use optical scan

voting machines, a machine recount is done by simply running the paper ballots back through the scanners.

In the 15 counties with touch-screen machines, officials will have to compare precinct-level results with the county returns. If there is a discrepancy, the precinct-level counts are presumed to be correct.

But what if there's a tie? As unlikely as that might be in a presidential race, there's a rule for that, too.

The candidates "shall draw lots to determine who shall be elected to the office," the law says.



Bob James stands in his front yard with his Bush-Cheney signs that were vandalized.

# Divided we stand

## America, on election's brink, is at odds with itself

BY JERRY SCHWARTZ  
The Associated Press

The battle for Bob James' front yard has been venomous, rancorous, vicious — a small-scale replica, in other words, of America in the jaws of Campaign 2004.

It started when James, an Army veteran of the Gulf War, planted Bush-Cheney yard signs — many, many such signs — on his corner lot on London Road in Duluth, Minn., along with two 4-by-8-foot plywood signs of his own pro-President Bush design.

Then James' son caught a 22-year-old man painting "war" on one of the big signs.

Then, that same night, two 17-year-olds tried to make off with some of his yard signs.

Then, at 4 a.m. on Sept. 12, three teenagers defaced the signs, one of them spray-painting a swastika on the sidewalk.

Some might be surprised that this happened in Duluth, a quiet city of 87,000 souls on Lake Superior, in a state so soft-spoken that it is renowned for its "Minnesota Nice." But folks there say Duluth is no different from the rest of the United States these days.

It is angry. It is often uncivil. It is divided.

This is "the most divided America in the recent memory of our country," said John Kerry at the third presidential debate.

Typically, the candidates disagreed as to why — Kerry blamed Bush, and Bush blamed Washington's partisanship.

In Duluth, the division can be measured by Bob James' defaced signs — but also by Duke Skorich's daily golf game at Northland Country Club, where friends of 30 years' standing can discuss just about everything, except politics. Too close to the bone.

"I think right now it is probably as bad as I've seen it in my 33 years of living in this community," says Skorich, a "Humphrey Democrat" who hosts a radio call-in show on KUWS.

It can be measured in the deliberations of a group of young leaders convened by the Duluth-Superior Area Community Foundation to consider the community's needs. The No. 1 issue, according to executive director Holly Sampson: "Improving the quality of public debate."

"The roots of grumpiness are deep. It's not just George Bush and Kerry," says Robert Putnam, the Harvard political scientist whose book "Bowling Alone" argued that Americans are participating less and less in civic life.

"There's an absence of friendship across borders — and I think that's close to being the most important problem this country faces ...," he says. "Half of us watch Fox and half of us watch CNN. We don't even live in the same country anymore."

Of course, the idea of a contentious America is not new. When John Jay helped negotiate a controversial treaty with Great Britain in 1795, a graffiti artist in Boston didn't take it well: "Damn John Jay!" he wrote. "Damn everyone who won't damn John Jay!! Damn everyone that

**“The roots of grumpiness are deep. It's not just George Bush and Kerry. There's an absence of friendship across borders — and I think that's close to being the most important problem this country faces ... Half of us watch Fox and half of us watch CNN. We don't even live in the same country anymore.”**

Robert Putnam

Harvard political scientist

won't put lights in his windows and sit up all night damning John Jay!!!”

And older Americans can recall the vitriol aimed at Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. “There were people who would not go outdoors if Eleanor was in town,” says Michael Schudson, author of “The Good Citizen: A History of American Civic Life.”

Still, John Geer, a political scientist at Vanderbilt University and author of the forthcoming book “Attacking Democracy: A Defense of Negativity in Presidential Campaigns, 1960-2000,” says divisiveness has increased in recent years — and that's not a bad thing.

“The right way to think about it is, as we've grown in our disagreements, along with that comes divisiveness,” Geer says.

“Thirty years ago, 20 years ago, everybody was complaining that the parties were not different, we had no choice. We have that now, and they're upset.

“There's higher interest, higher voter registration. More bumper stickers, more yard signs. Things matter more. This is all to the good.”

It doesn't always seem that way in Duluth.

“People view the other person as basically stupid if they support John Kerry or George Bush,” says Andy Peterson, director of public policy for the Duluth Chamber of Commerce. “When candidates come to town, people get angry at people they know who show up.

“I try to stay away from the politicians as much as possible.”

Add the abrasive voices that are heard everywhere in America, on syndicated talk radio and cable channels. The area has its own homegrown radio shows, too — among them the liberal Skoric and conservative Lew Latto, whose “Tabernacle of Truth” airs daily on WDSM.

“People see civic involvement as getting involved with similarly minded people and having their own views confirmed,” Ness says. Talk radio, Internet chat and discussion groups “lead folks down the paths of being more narrow in their perspectives.”

As elsewhere, this year's political campaign is whipping up both enthusiasm and animosity in Duluth, says Craig Grau, a political scientist at University of Minnesota at Duluth.

Perhaps for the first time, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan — all state-within ranges of the local media — are closely contested, he says.

So though Duluth itself remains solidly in the column of the Democrat-Farmer-Labor Party, there have been numerous visits by candidates and their spouses, and there has been a constant stream of campaign ads, many of them negative. Though Duluth is the 136th largest media market in the country, a University of Wisconsin study found it ranked 37th in campaign commercials.

That relentless drumbeat, says Morris Fiorina, may lead some to believe that their society is more divided than it really is.

Fiorina, a political scientist at Stanford University, believes that the parties and candidates are divided — not the American public. Most Americans, he says, are moderates, even on hot-button issues like abortion, where they favor choice, but some limits.

Since the 1960s, he says, the political system has come to demand more of its citizens — more voting in primaries, for example. But most Americans don't want to do more, leaving the field to less moderate elements who move the parties away from the mainstream.

“Bush and Kerry are a lot farther apart than JFK and Nixon were in 1960,” he says. Given more centrist candidates, he says, most Americans would gladly vote for them.

“The bulk of the American citizenry is somewhat in the position of the unfortunate citizens of some third-world countries who try to stay out of the crossfire while Maoist guerrillas and right-wing death squads shoot at each other,” he writes in his new book, “Culture War? The Myth of Polarized America.”

So, he says, Americans — and Duluthians — check out Michael Moore and watch Bill O'Reilly and endure endless political commercials for candidates and bellicose behavior by some of their neighbors and they come to the mistaken conclusion that these things reflect America accurately.

They don't like what they see.

In Duluth, many are appalled by the vandalism of the signs. Bob James' place, others are appalled by James' refusal to forgive the teenagers who came forward to admit their crime and to apologize, or by James' insistence on putting up such an outsized display in the first place.

“Does that mean to tell me that you're a better American, a stronger patriot?” asks Skorich. “When you put that many signs and signs of that size, I'm not certain what kind of a statement you want to make.”





Specialist LaAndrea LaMarque. 54B Chemical Specialist. U.S. Army Reserve

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## FACES



Members of the Canadian rock band Sum 41 gather on a roof top in central London. The band — from left, lead singer Deryck Whibley, bassist Jay McCaslin, guitarist Dave Baksh and drummer Steve Jocz — is currently on a promotional tour to launch their new album titled "CHUCK." AP

# Stage antics aside, Sum 41 is all grown up

BY COLLEEN LONG  
The Associated Press

Whether they like it or not, the punks from Sum 41 are growing up.

The Canadian foursome of 20-somethings has crafted a more focused and melodic new album, "CHUCK," with a much heavier sound than their obnoxious teenage boy anthem "Fat Lip." They have all recently become homeowners. And — gasp! — lead singer Deryck Whibley says he's sick of going to strip clubs and getting drunk all the time.

Guys: We know you pride yourselves on crazy antics, on and off stage — but this is not how immature people behave.

The band named the new album for a United Nations worker who saved their lives while they were shooting a documentary in the Republic of Congo.

Whibley, guitarist Dave Baksh, bassist Jay McCaslin and drummer Steve Jocz traveled there in May for the nonprofit group War Child Canada.

The last day of shooting, a year-long peace was broken and gunfire erupted around them. After the U.N. worker helped them out of the hotel, which was directly in the line of fire, they spent hours huddled in a U.N. compound before getting a flight out.

"Surprisingly, the whole thing didn't do much to us. It was crazy and we survived it, but it didn't make me appreciate life or anything more," Whibley said via phone from London. "What it did was give me an understanding of how awful it really is down there."

Whibley says it's not strange for a rock group to do nonprofit work.

"I think people are surprised by some of the things we do, that they are good things," he said. "We're still the same people, it doesn't matter if we're on stage yelling or doing charity work."

Whibley and the others are from Ajax, Ontario, a tiny town where there's not much else to do but be angry about

being stuck in a tiny town.

"When you're living in a big city, there's so much to see and do," he said. "But when you're living in a (expletive) town in the middle of nowhere there's nothing else to do but music."

The four have known each other about 10 years. About five years ago the band put together a video of sorts, set to their music, showing them egging houses and causing all sorts of trouble in their little town. The video caused a buzz in the music industry and the band was able to take their pick of record labels, choosing Island/Def Jam.

Their first album, "All Killer No Filler," sounds a little like old Beastie Boys stuff, and "Does This Look Infected?" is only about 32 minutes long.

*"I think people are surprised by some of the things we do, that they are good things. We're still the same people, it doesn't matter if we're on stage yelling or doing charity work."*

Deryck Whibley  
lead singer of Sum 41

anything to do with his reported relationship with another angry Canadian singer, Avril Lavigne.

Whibley won't talk about that at all, although he's quick to correct a reporter who asks if Lavigne is 18 ("She's 20"). Whibley quickly changes the subject, saying he's always wanted to be more of a rock star than a musician.

"I didn't want to be some guy playing a guitar in a bar," he said. "But that doesn't mean I don't like to be musical or to experiment with new sounds. We don't like repeating ourselves."

Sounds like some pretty mature stuff.

## Chow says he's misunderstood

Actor **Chow Yun-Fat** says he is misunderstood in Hollywood, where he is cast mostly in action films involving gunplay.

"I'm unlucky. Nobody understands me," the Ming Pao Daily News quoted Chow as telling a group of university students. "But I can wait. I hope someone who understands me will come along."

Chow said Hollywood is fixated on his on-screen gunfighter style.

"Foreigners look me up because of John Woo's movies, only because they see that my gun scenes are good," Chow said, referring to the Hong Kong director who has also moved on to Hollywood.

Woo directed Chow in the Hong Kong productions "A Better Tomorrow" and "Hard Boiled," which showcased Chow's action-scene prowess. But the actor also starred in romance films such as "An Autumn's Tale," and "Love in a Fallen City."



Chow

## Ma\$e: God is the king of bling bling

Thou shalt bling? According to **Ma\$e**, God doesn't mind when people adorn themselves with flashy jewelry.

"He don't have no problem with you blinging," the rapper said in an interview, during which he wore a jeweled necklace and bracelet.

God's heavenly abode proves that he's the real king of bling, Ma\$e added.

"His gates are pearly, his house is about 10 stadiums big, the streets are gold — you do the budget on that kind of place," said Ma\$e, 26.

Ma\$e retired from rap in 1999 to follow a religious calling, but returned to hip-hop this summer with the album "Welcome Back," which is free of the cursing, drug references and womanizing that peppered his earlier work. Ma\$e continues to preach in the Atlanta area.

## A Della Reese by any other name...

Actress **Della Reese** is joining an elite group of famous people who have roses named after them.

With the "Della" rose, she joins the ranks of the late Princess Diana, President John F. Kennedy, Queen Elizabeth and Dolly Parton.

The fragrant hybrid with deep burgundy color will be dedicated in the actress' honor Jan. 3 in a ceremony sponsored by Armstrong Garden Centers.

Reese, 73, who starred in the long-running series "Touched by an Angel," grows several dozen varieties of roses at her home, said her publicist, Eric Raymond.

"Roses are very special to me," Reese said. "There's a spiritual aspect to them that appeals to me and, like people, each one is uniquely individual and beautiful."

## Tom Ford comes out with big, bold book

Former Gucci designer **Tom Ford**'s new book is like his description of Texas fashion: big and bold.

"There's a boldness to Texans that carries over into fashion and I like that," said Ford, who stepped down in the spring as creative director for the Italian luxury fashion house after 10 years.

The native Texan was in Dallas on Thursday for a party to celebrate his new book, "Tom Ford," a look book at his designs for Gucci and Yves Saint Laurent.

The 43-year-old said that doing the book was cathartic after leaving Gucci.

"It seemed like a perfect time to re-live everything, revisit it, box up all the things that meant something to me in a beautiful book and slipcover and call it a chapter of my life and move on," Ford said.

Ford, who has a film production office in Los Angeles, said directing will be his next endeavor. But he doesn't rule out the possibility of returning to design.

"Six months ago I thought 'No, never,'" he said. "Now I think, 'Yes, probably.'"

Stories and photos from The Associated Press





## Dog phones 911

**WA** RICHLAND — Leana Beasley has faith that a dog is man's best friend.

Faith, a 4-year-old Rottweiler, phoned 911 when Beasley fell out of her wheelchair. The dog barked urgently into the receiver until a dispatcher sent help. Then the service dog unlocked the front door for the police officer.

"I sensed there was a problem on the other end of the 911 call," said dispatcher Jenny Buchanan. "The dog was too persistent in barking directly into the phone receiver. I knew she was trying to tell me something."

Faith is trained to summon help by pushing a speed-dial button on the phone with her nose after taking the receiver off the hook, said her owner, Beasley, 45, who suffers from bad seizures.

Guided by experts at the Assistance Dog Club of Puget Sound, Beasley helped train Faith herself. The day of the call, Faith "had been acting very clingy, wanting to be touching me all day long," Beasley said.

The dog, whose sensitive nose can detect changes in Beasley's body chemistry, is trained to alert her owner to impending seizures. But that wasn't what was happening on Sept. 7, and Faith apparently wasn't sure how to communicate the problem. During Beasley's three-week hospital stay, doctors determined her liver was not properly processing her seizure medication.

## No sweets at school

**CT** MILFORD — Cupcakes are contraband at Meadowside elementary school.

Principal Robert Davis' ban on all celebratory sweets has made some parents sour.

Health officials said Davis adopted a new policy of using games and crafts instead of baked goods to fete birthdays, holidays and special occasions, and praised it as a way to combat childhood obesity.

Parent Jack Fowler said no one should dictate what students can bring to school for special events. He said health and school officials have turned into the "fat police," in an attempt to rid schools of foods children enjoy.

Mayor James L. Richetelli Jr. said as a parent he can understand health and school officials' concern regarding food allergies and childhood obesity, but cupcakes should remain.

## Gear falls off plane

**FL** SAFETY HARBOR — Part of the landing gear of a Delta airliner bound for Tampa fell from the sky and onto the roof of a mobile home where a retiree was sitting down to sip a beer.

No one was injured, and the Boeing 767 aircraft landed at Tampa International Airport without incident, authorities said.

A 7-by-7-foot aluminum door that covers the landing gear fell but did not affect the airplane's integrity, according to the Federal Aviation Administration. Pilots aboard Delta Flight 432 may not have even known about the malfunction until after the plane landed.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

On the ground, John Nork had just started a can of Budweiser in his screened-in porch when he thought a neighboring palm tree crashed onto his roof.

"I never thought of something falling from the sky," said Nork, 62, a former Marine and retired auto-plant employee. "I had just gotten settled in, and here's this big kaboom! It was right over my head."

He stayed in his fold-up lawn chair for more than five minutes, he said, too shocked to move.

## FEMA asks for space

**WV** CHARLESTON — The Federal Emergency Management Agency is asking mobile home park operators to help provide space for temporary flood housing to help Northern Panhandle residents who suffered damage when the remnants of Hurricane Ivan hit the state last month. FEMA is turning to mobile home parks because there's a limited number of rental units in the area.

## Foster parent suspected

**CO** LONGMONT — A foster parent and former teacher is being investigated on suspicion of making child-pornography movies with a hidden camera in the bathroom of his home.



## Gas-powered job

Paul Gonzalez uses a gas-powered blower to move leaves off a sidewalk in Anderson, S.C.

A warrant out for the arrest of Laurence Reed Senterfit, 43, includes a bail amount of \$500,000. He has not been taken into custody because he is in a hospital, recovering from a suicide attempt after running his car into a parked recreation vehicle, according to police.

Senterfit plowed into the abandoned motor home Oct. 12 and has been hospitalized since then with 10 broken ribs, a broken sternum and a broken pelvis, police said.

## Candidate bows out

**AR** CONWAY — A Republican state legislative candidate suspended his campaign after news surfaced of his arrest record for exposing himself to children.

Alan Fortney was arrested three times since 1981 on misdemeanor counts of indecent exposure. He was fined but never served time in jail, he told the Log Cabin Democrat newspaper of Conway, about 25 miles north of Little Rock.

In a statement, Fortney said he was suspending his campaign because he believes "it is in the best interest of my family and me personally to take my name out of consideration for this office."

Fortney, 42, told The Associated Press he didn't "know what else to say."

"My name will still be on there (the ballot) but I've discontinued my campaign. I pulled the ads, everything," he said.

If he gets elected anyway, Fortney said, "I will deal with it, at that time."

Fortney's Democratic opponent, Betty Pickett, said she was surprised but had no further comment.

## Landscaper arrested

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — A San Francisco Bay landscaper is accused of scamming seniors out of up to \$4 million in a bogus investment scheme that may cost some of them their homes.

Charles Melvin Turner, 43, was arrested after Santa Clara County sheriff's investigators uncovered widening allegations he persuaded at least 10 seniors to loan millions that he claimed would be invested in his online dating service, LoveConcierge.com, and a vending machine firm.

Instead, investigators claim the money often went for lavish spending by Turner and his wife on travel, luxury cars, dining out and "living well," said Santa Clara County Deputy District Attorney Cindy Hendrickson.

"These people are devastated," the prosecutor said of people as old as age 93. "They not only have to deal with the financial loss, but they have to deal with the betrayal of someone they really, really trusted."

## School regains rights

**IN** SOUTH BEND — Indiana University South Bend was given approval to again review its own research projects. Research with human subjects was briefly halted one year ago because the school didn't follow proper procedures in approving the research methods.

Concerns arose because some researchers were incorrectly told by the campus review board that their projects didn't require board approval.



Beauty is not for every pup — Susan Guadagno of Key West, Fla., puts finishing touches on pug Rosie's costume during the Fantasy Fest Pet Masquerade and Parade in Key West, Fla.



Amish life — An Amish farmer uses draught horses to pull an implement to collect cornstalks from the fields in Pulaski, Pa.



Sleeping chicks — Katie Smith, from Lincoln, Neb., tries to quiet her 5-month-old daughter, Bella, prior to the Kiddie Parade as 3-month-old Gracie McClain, from Independence, Kan., sleeps on during the Newswall festival. Newswall, which is Halloween spelled backwards, is an Independence tradition.





## Staying focused

Juan Lucero peers through a pair of binoculars at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, N.M., to look at the lunar eclipse.



## Just taking my time

A bison walks down a road in the Lamar Valley of Yellowstone National Park, Wyo., as people in automobiles observe the migration while waiting their turn to move.



## Rough track

Eneko Llanos of Spain negotiates rocky terrain en route to taking first place in the Xterra World Championship in Maui, Hawaii.



## Central Park fall colors

Boaters on The Lake at Central Park row past a bank of trees turning colors in New York.

## Book didn't help

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — An unemployed man — who had just bought a copy of "The Big Bad Book of American Bank Robbery" when the FBI arrested him — was sentenced to more than nine years in prison for robbing nearly two dozen banks across California.

Buchanan, 32, was also ordered by U.S. District Judge Fern Smith in San Francisco to pay \$84,885 in restitution for his spree of robberies that ended in September 2003.

When police arrested Buchanan, they found the bank-robbery book, chronicling the history of bank heists and describing various holdup techniques, in his car, authorities said. A receipt showed that he bought the book only an hour before his last robbery.

## Remains, beer lifted

**WI** PORTAGE — A woman dug up her dead boyfriend's ashes more than 10 years ago and drank the beer that was buried with him, possibly out of spite for his family, authorities said.

The family of Michael Hendrickson contacted authorities when they received information that his remains had been stolen. An exhumation revealed Hendrickson's cremated remains — along with beer and cigarettes that were buried with him — were missing.

Detectives searched the home of his ex-girlfriend, Karen Stolzmann, and discovered her hiding in the shower. Remains believed to be Hendrickson's were found in the garage, according to Columbia County Detective Wayne Smith, who called the case "twisted and bizarre."

Stolzmann, 44, was charged with a misdemeanor count of concealing stolen property. Detective Jay Yerges said Stolzmann and Hendrickson were living together in the early 1990s, while they were both married to other people. The relationship was stormy, with a pattern of alcohol and domestic abuse, he said.

Stolzmann was present when the 27-year-old Hendrickson shot himself in January 1992. Yerges said Hendrickson's family blamed her for his death and she was not invited to his services.

Robbing graves, a felony offense, has a six-year statute of limitations.

## Deaths seem accidental

**FL** ORLANDO — The deaths of six family members in a home filled with a lethal level of carbon monoxide appear to be "a tragic accident," officials said.

Nothing suggests the woman, two men and three boys were deliberately killed or died in a suicide attempt, said Orange County Sheriff's Cpl. Allen Lee.

A car was found in the garage with the ignition on after the bodies were discovered. Authorities believe the car may have been out of gas.

The bodies of the family members were found by a neighbor; all were in their beds. Authorities believe the owner of the car, who worked a late shift, may have been tired and forgot to shut off the car.

"This is looking more and more like a tragic accident," Lee said.

The car's exhaust was close to an intake for the home's air conditioning, which apparently spread

the deadly gas throughout the residence.

Autopsies have been conducted; toxicology reports are due in eight to 12 weeks.

## School standards down

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — Nearly 20 percent of the state's public schools were given a passing grade because of lowered standards, not improved performance, a Philadelphia Inquirer analysis concluded. According to the report, more than twice as many schools in Pennsylvania wouldn't have made what's termed "adequate yearly progress" toward federally mandated goals this year if certain standards hadn't been changed by the state.

## Students to be excused

**GA** DULUTH — Muslim students in Georgia's largest school system would be allowed to leave school early on Fridays to attend a mosque under a compromise reached by Muslim leaders and school officials. The announcement came after Isam Rashid and Imad Rashid, two brothers at Duluth High School, asked to be excused early for a weekly prayer required of Muslims.

## Genetic tests expanded

**NY** ALBANY — Babies born in New York will be tested for 44 genetic diseases — more than any other state — under an expansion of the state's newborn screening program.

Infants are currently screened for 11 inherited and sometimes life-threatening disorders including cystic fibrosis, sickle cell anemia and phenylketonuria.

Under the expanded program, the number of diseases tested in newborns would quadruple by 2005. Twenty diseases will be added by the end of this year and another 13 in 2005.

Early diagnosis and prompt treatment after birth can prevent mental retardation and other complications later on. Iowa, Mississippi and North Dakota test between 38 to 43 inherited diseases in newborns, according to the National Newborn Screening and Genetics Resource Center.

## Elderly man killed

**CA** ONTARIO — An elderly man was fatally shot by three teenagers as he took his daily walk in the park, police said.

Fidencio Guzman, 89, was shot at a home in Ontario, said Detective Al Parra. The retired farmer originally from Mexico was transported to a local hospital where he died.

Parra said two 17-year-olds and a 16-year-old were taken into custody at Chaffey High School and incriminated each other during questioning. He said all three were booked for investigation of murder; their names will not be released until charges are filed.

The detective said the suspects went to the park intending to rob other juveniles but approached Guzman and demanded money. When he didn't understand, they began patting him down and then shot Guzman several times as he tried to stand, Parra said. Witnesses saw three male teenagers wearing ski masks run through the park immediately after the shooting.

Stories and photos from wire services

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## Gauging on several fronts

I would like to start by echoing Benny Harper's comments ("New AAFES gas policy unfair," letter, Oct. 2); he hit the nail right on the head. Thanks, Benny, you are correct: The Army and Air Force Exchange Service has gouged a captive audience for years and in more ways than at the gas pumps.

I would like to know where the 67 percent of our money that AAFES officials claim they donate to Morale, Welfare and Recreation goes? Everyone, including myself, who uses any of the facilities offered by these two organizations is charged a fee of some kind.

The Sept. 19 Stripes article "AAFES to switch to monthly gas pricing" (Okina and Japan editions) paraphrased AAFES spokeswoman Sgt. 1st Class Amanda Glenn as saying: "In fiscal 2004 the price AAFES paid to the Defense Energy Supply Center for gas was \$1.02 per gallon. The price projected for next fiscal year is \$1.06."

The Oct. 3 Stripes article "AAFES says it pays for gas for Japan soon to rise 36 cents per gallon" (Okina and Japan editions) stated that AAFES will have to pay \$1.38 per gallon from the same vendor. I see AAFES learned a lot from the Kerry flip-flop. Who are we to believe?

Based on AAFES's average figure of 743,000 gallons per month pumped from Okina pumps alone — and at the inflated rate of \$1.38 per gallon AAFES officials claim they will have to pay — they will make a cool \$265,155 profit from the price adjustment in October. And better yet, \$334,485 will be realized from November's price adjustment of 10 cents per gallon. That's a cool half-million-plus in just two months. Where will it end?

Our AAFES is charged 67 percent, of the money is donated to MWR, AAFES still will make a smooth \$220,000 for the two months, just from the pumps alone — not bad for someone who doesn't even have to pump it (self-service).

What does it take to wake folks up to the reality that we are not required to pay state and federal taxes on our gas purchases? I've taken Benny Harper's advice and wrote this letter to show we are being ripped off. No new taxes!

Robert Corey  
Yonitun, Okina

## Drive on, too, thanks

So far, I have seen only one intelligent letter on the 343rd Quartermaster Compa-

ny. There have been many letters with phrases such as, "Suck it up and drive on" or "We saluted the flag and executed our mission" or "Now it's time to earn your color money and salute the flag." I am not a soldier. I just practice this. It's not a game. Catch phrases don't save lives.

Going on and on about duty and country doesn't save lives, either. What about the self military members have to those under them? What about the

## Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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Country code +81 3-3408-8936;  
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duty the country has to provide the very best for the men and women who serve?

If we are going to wear the uniform, then we deserve the very best because we may be asked to give up our very life. Those 19 soldiers are heroes for what they did, because they took a stand for what was right and weren't bullied or intimidated by those above them.

Leadership is about taking care of those under you, and not about being the one in charge.

Stop all this nonsense about following orders like some moron without a brain and start holding leaders (both political and military) accountable when they make decisions that needlessly endanger lives. And to those 19 soldiers in the 343rd Quartermaster company: There are troops who support you and believe you did the right thing. You took a stand, not just for yourselves, but for every member of the military.

And for that you have our gratitude.  
Sp. Russell Steele  
Camp Victory, Kuwait

## Badge issue hits home

The Combat Infantryman Badge issue hit home in my unit, 69th Infantry out of New York, because we have a number of soldiers in my battalion who were pulled out to other military occupational specialty slots to round out the battalion for deployment to Iraq.

These guys are not infantry-MOS-qualified even though this is an infantry unit and they are not promotable or eligible for the badge.

When Gen. George C. Marshall created legions and sent them to Iraq, he wanted the soldiers who perform the infantry mission as their primary assignment. Many soldiers of all fields participated in ground combat during World War II; however, Marshall felt that only soldiers who performed the infantry mission full time

should get the special recognition of the badge.

During current operations, again soldiers of all branches get caught up in ground combat from time to time, yet after being given the badge, they are reassigned, possibly out of harm's way during much of their time in theater. I don't think granting these soldiers the CIB would be in keeping with Marshall's intent for the award.

However, the non-MOS-qualified soldiers serving with us are a different story. They have been assigned to an infantry unit and been given the infantry mission full time. They should be MOS-qualified by on-the-job training and made eligible for promotions within the unit and the CIB.

The Army might look at all who have been retrained and given the infantry assignment as their full-time job in the same light, reclassifying their MOS for the duration of their deployment.

PATRIC O'DRISCOLL  
Camp Buehring, Kuwait

## No bell-bottom trousers

Regarding the proposed new Navy uniforms ("Navy to test out cammie working uniforms," article, Japan edition, Oct. 23) this idea [stinks]. Soldiers have always rejected a change in their uniform because they felt they were unique. This change is just another way to further homogenize individuals, so that servicemen are interchangeable as indistinguishable numbers.

I suspect this idea came from a clerical or accountant-type mind, perhaps with the idea of keeping up with fashion, rather than honoring tradition. No more bell-bottom trousers? Give us a break!

Bill Shannon  
Los Angeles

## Consider benefits of adopting

November is National Adoption Awareness Month, established in 1990. It is a time to inform society about adopting, particularly for those children in foster care. The month also serves as a time to commemorate all the lives that have been touched through adoption.

Every year, Americans adopt thousands of children, either domestically or internationally. Unfortunately, there are even more children left in foster homes waiting to be placed. Most of these children are minorities, older children, have special needs, or all of the above.

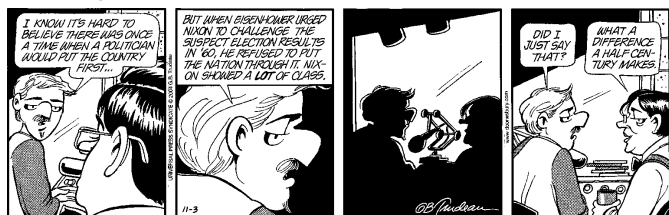
Adoption is a unique way to build a family. I have experienced this personally. Three years ago, my husband and I adopted our son. We had a wonderful experience, and our son is the joy of our lives. We are thankful for him, and for his birth mother, who made a very loving sacrifice to find him a stable, loving parent home.

Please take a moment this month to celebrate the joys of adoption, or find the opportunity to learn about the process.

LESLIE SHOOK  
Ramstein, Germany

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

## Doonesbury



## OPINION

## The moment the machine reverses direction

BY MICHAEL KINSLEY  
Los Angeles Times

There's a poignant moment for the American political conversation around dinner time on Election Day. The polls are closing, but the results aren't yet in. Or, more likely, everybody you see on TV already knows the likely result thanks to exit polls, which — in a nutty exercise of misplaced high-mindedness — they don't share with the public.

In any event, for politicians and political journalists, there are about 10 seconds when there is truly nothing to say.

It's like the moment of stillness at the top of an amusement park ride, before you plunge back into the cacophony. And the cause is similar too: The machine is reversing direction.

Before the election, the conversation is all about small things.

Political consultants and opposition researchers dredge up or invent some little factoid from the other guy's past, or they package a few quotes and a few votes into an unflattering assessment of an opponent's character, and politicians build a campaign around it. They may even sincerely believe it.

Political reporters and commentators get sucked in. They may deplore the disproportionate discussion of matters like whether John Kerry threw away his medals or his ribbons, but they can't simply ignore such issues if the candidates or their surrogates choose to focus on them. And sometimes the press itself takes a trivial issue and runs with it, such as the sexual preference of Dick Cheney's daughter Mary.

The voters, for that matter, may deplore the misplaced emphasis and the absence of "real issues," but the press only fixates this stuff on the citizenry because, apparently, it works.

As Election Day approached, the campaign became increasingly about itself, like the old "Seinfeld" show. The charges and countercharges focused on the charges and countercharges.

How can you trust someone who would call me a liar for what I said about him? A candidate's offhand remark or offbeat facial expression can sustain the cable TV news channels for a couple of news cycles.

Among the commentators, prestige attaches to obscurity. Dentists' surprising indifference to tort reform. A particular county whose voters have been in the majority every election except seven since 1836. The key — and overlooked! — campaign role of the first lady's manicurist.

On Election Day itself, the commentators might as well be slicing open a goat or consulting the oracle at Delphi. Bush will win if it rains in Ohio. Long lines at polling places are good news for Kerry.

If you cut coughs up a fur ball while watching Fox News, that means the election will be thrown into the House of Representatives.

Then 10 seconds of silence, and the chatter resumes. The votes are in, the results are known, a winner has been declared. (Or so we hope.) But now the premise of the conversation is completely different. Smallness is out; largeness is all.

The candidate who has spent most of the last six months urging you to vote for him because his opponent wears a brown belt with black shoes now declares that his victory represents the death knell for liberalism in all its manifestations.

Political consultants who have pocketed millions in fees for growing hydroponic plants in their Washington, D.C., laboratories now dismiss all that "static" buzz, through which the American people have heard and responded to a clear call for war or for peace or for national health insurance right now.



For the pundits, this is the moment to bring out their Gibbon, or their Tocqueville. For the cable news network bookers, this is a moment to try to find this guy Gibbon everybody is talking about (Tocqueville sounds like he might have a foreign accent), a time to discover that he has been dead for 200 years, and a time to settle for Douglas Brinkley instead.

Details are out, generalities are in. Columnists in a mood to show off no longer assert that the Nebraska Republican primary holds the key to everything. Instead, they assert that the election's meaning cannot be grasped until it is understood that the vote was, in its essence, a referendum on whether life has any meaning and that the conclusion was a ringing "perhaps."

The eagerness to generalize about the meaning of the election is especially peculiar since everyone involved was still busy the weekend before the election predicting that the vote will be terribly close.

The 2000 election was the *reductio ad absurdum* of this tendency. The ultimate victor actually got fewer votes than the guy he beat. But that didn't stop the victor from claiming a mandate for his entire agenda, or the pundits from brooding about the continuing historical decline of the loser's ideology.

After a year or more of this election campaign, you may feel as if you're drowning in the triviality of it all. Just hold on, and you'll be swept up in history.

Then you'll really be sorry.

Michael Kinsley is the Times' editorial and opinion editor.

## Terror acts united America, but we've lost our way

WASHINGTON  
As I left this global symbol of America and its promise — ironically against a backdrop of overcast skies and terrestrial political storms — I wondered about the fate of the nation after a brutal election.

John C. Bersia

And I thought long and hard about a question that was raised during more than one discussion: Can we truly hope to succeed in a war against the terrorists who challenge us, united in their convictions and sense of purpose, when we dither, divided and distrustful of one another? That question occupies a key position among the most important concerns in the long, difficult battle with terrorism that lies ahead.

Hard-core global terrorists, such as the al-Qaida network, who total perhaps 150,000 and who may draw loose support from several million others, barely register as a percentage of the world's population. And, of course, they do not represent a monolith of thought and behavior.

But what they lack in numbers, they make up for in zeal, creativity and persistence. The United States would stand a better chance of beating back the terrorists if it had held on to the unity that visited the nation ever so briefly after Sept. 11, 2001.

For a moment, Americans were as unified in their convictions and sense of purpose as the terrorists. And those misce-

ants — from the leaders down to the rank-and-file members — saw the collective resolve very dramatically in the United States' launching of an overdue war against terrorism.

In Afghanistan, where Washington and its allies unleashed the first sweeping counter-terrorist, people had grown accustomed to a lethargic America that reared its head occasionally to snap back after terrorist provocations. For a moment, the terrorists and their sponsors lost their balance, disrupted by a level of ferocity and focus that they had failed to anticipate.

But U.S. unity quickly gave way to the more familiar partisan squabbling and bashing, even to the point that some critics reached the stupefying conclusion that the

terrorist threat shaped up as little more than a nuisance, that a war footing for the United States amounted to an overreaction.

Political campaigns this year have carried the ugliness and nastiness into other topics and to dizzying heights. America's house appears more deeply divided than at any time in recent memory, including the Vietnam War period.

I cannot accept, however, that Americans' core values, which range far and wide across the populace, have taken such divergent paths. My impression is that Americans, as in many cultures around the world, tend more toward moderation than to the extreme perspectives that appear to have hijacked both the Democratic Party

and the Republican Party.

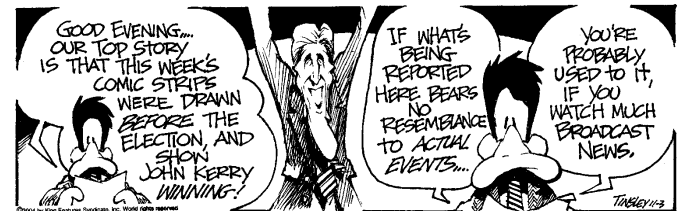
Americans often express surprise about the largely silent majority in other countries and cultures where extremists seize attention and influence. What about here? My guess is that if the moderates among Democrats and Republicans, who concur far more than they differ, took an active role — perhaps by joining forces to create their own political party — they would command a powerful majority.

But that issue belongs to the future. The main challenge after Tuesday — whether George W. Bush or John Kerry wins the popular and Electoral College nods — is to restore America's lost unity before al-Qaida's next attack.

John C. Bersia is an Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel columnist.

## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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TINSLEY 11/3



# Horoscope

With the lunar influence in Cancer this morning, our patriotic spirit is still strong, whether or not we were on the winning side of the election. All things American will be the main topic of conversation throughout the day. The moon enters Leo this evening, and some grandstanding is to be expected, both from our leaders and our electorate family.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY**  
(November 3). You have many talents, but one will put you in the spotlight this year. Expect a big raise or promotion in April to elevate your status in the workplace. You will probably see family in the summer when you take a trip to celebrate a wedding or birth. A big purchase also is in the cards for you this winter. Lucky love signs are Leo and Aries.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Sometimes life's shadows are caused by our standing in our own sunshine." Take those words of wisdom to heart, and get out of your own way.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Master your own bits. Wherever you go, be alert for signs of beauty and anything to lift your spirit—a stranger's smile, a pretty tree, an interesting cloud formation. The world is filled with simple joys.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Your brain is like a computer. You can only take in so much information before you need to sort it out. Take some time out, and just relax.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Fantasizing about fame and fortune is a pleasant distraction, but don't let it keep you from dealing in reality. If it's a new love that has you floating on air, remember that what goes up must eventually come down.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Being independent is all well and good, but someone close to you needs to feel needed. He or she may feel you're so in control that he/she is unnecessary

in your life.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You hate to leave with work sitting in your in-box. No matter how much is piled on, you will toil like a fiend until everything is completed and neatly filed away in its place. Understand your limitations, and lighten up on yourself.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22). You're being your

self up over nothing. All those embarrassing moments you wish you could do over are not going to matter one iota in the long run. In fact, someone thinks your quips are incredibly charming.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You win some, you lose some. What's important is that you

live to fight another day, so if you're really losing the fight, get the heck out of there. Sometimes, it's much better to retreat a foot than to advance an inch.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The key to your financial success on a particular project may depend upon your ability to humble yourself. Since you're used to calling all the shots, and you hate asking for favors, it will be very tough, but try.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). To greet the day with fresh eyes is to know real happiness. What would you do if you were a guest in your home instead of the owner? You'd probably treat the people and possessions there with more care and respect.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's obvious that you're the favorite among power people and could be granted special privileges. Stay humble. If you speak softly, they'll have to lean in close and really listen—especially when you're dealing with a Cancer.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Moon changes affect you, and you're prepared to be put to the test. Once you make it through to the other side, you'll be ready to party, and they'll have plenty to celebrate. A new job and possibly a new relationship are in the stars for you.

Creators Syndicate

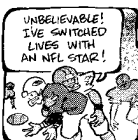
Joyce Jillson



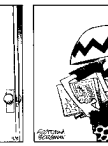
Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



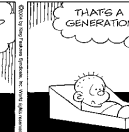
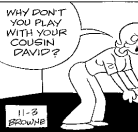
Zits



Cathy



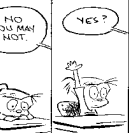
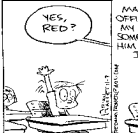
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



Better or Worse



## To our readers

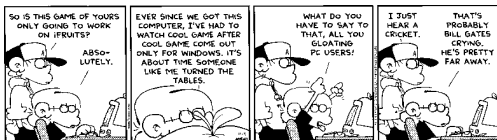
For the past decade, this column has been written by Joyce Jillson and Holiday Mathis. Ms. Jillson passed away on Oct. 1. Because Ms. Jillson and Ms. Mathis wrote in advance, columns they prepared will run through Nov. 6. Beginning Nov. 7, the horoscopes will be re-named "Horoscopes by Holiday" and will be authored by Ms. Mathis.

## Peanuts

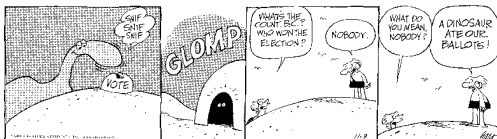




Fox trot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



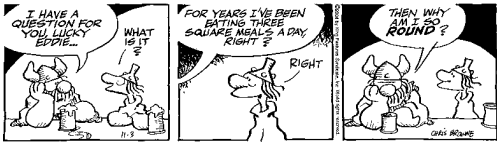
Blondie



Dilbert



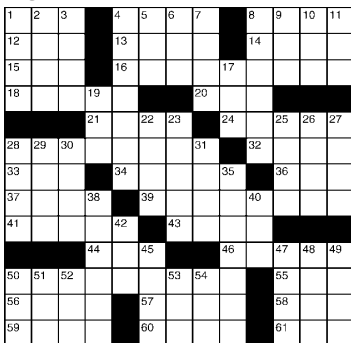
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



### Across

- 1 Performance
- 4 Red Hot Chili Peppers bassist
- 8 Arrived
- 12 Halloween shout
- 13 Deserve
- 14 In due time
- 15 Shade provider
- 16 Very competitive
- 18 Forbidden
- 20 Victory
- 21 Tool used to incite
- 24 Morris' name
- 28 Hall & Oates hit
- 32 Saucy
- 33 "Hall, Caesar!"
- 34 Bulgaria's capital
- 36 Diva's downfall, maybe
- 37 Hair salon request
- 39 Accepts defeat
- 41 Tonto's horse
- 43 Cantina order
- 44 Try the Tokay
- 46 Display abundantly
- 50 Like some clothes
- 55 Flushed
- 56 Exceptional
- 57 Requirement
- 58 Joke
- 59 Palliat
- 60 Guys' partners
- 61 Nevada town

### Down

- 1 Help a hood
- 2 Soft drink choice
- 3 The Taj Mahal, basically
- 4 Hats
- 5 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
- 6 Work unit
- 7 From square one
- 8 Treat for Tabby
- 9 "What's your point?"
- 10 Jane Smiley novel
- 11 Chang's closest relative
- 17 Have a bug
- 19 Unclose, poetically
- 22 Nebraska county
- 23 Make diet-friendly
- 25 Sverre
- 26 Therefore
- 27 Pack away
- 28 Navigator's stack
- 29 Opposite of "sans"
- 30 Pianist Peter
- 31 Comedian Rudner
- 35 Climbs
- 38 Reduced to crumbs
- 40 Actress Courteney
- 42 Dead heat
- 45 Throe
- 47 Impulsive force point?
- 48 Transaction
- 49 Boldly
- 50 "— Doubtfire"
- 51 Erstwhile acorn
- 52 One of the Ts in TNT
- 53 Mad Hatter's quaff
- 54 Silthery one

### Answer to Previous Puzzle



### 11-3 CRYPTOQUIP

C D F M E I Y B J E " K ' W  
H F M L K M T W E T P J L F M  
M I C ! " K G Y Z Z I G H D P H ' G

P C F F L K M T P M M I Y M B F W F M H.  
Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF A RUNNER  
CHOOSIS ILL-FITTING SHOES, SHE COULD  
EASILY FEEL THE AGONY OF DE-FEET.  
Today's Cryptquip Clue: M equals N

# E-mail scams fall short of riches

**Dear Abby:** I have been hit on by scam artists more than once. They must think I have "sucker" trained on my forehead.

The latest has been a series of e-mails telling me that a Mrs. Virginia of the United Kingdom was killed in a car accident, and I am the sole beneficiary of her \$12.5 million estate.

All I have to do is provide them with my bank account number, and the money will be transferred from the Habib Trust Bank of England.

Well, I'm not stupid. I gave them the account number of a bank I no longer do business with. There is a grand total of \$2.83 in that account.

They are welcome to it — have a cup of coffee and a score on me.

Their scam promises they'll do all the paperwork — but after a while they'll tell you that you either have to send an advance of several thousand dollars to "complete the transaction," or go to Nigeria to sign the papers.

So, Abby, please warn your

readers if they receive any type of e-mail, or regular mail, or even a phone call to that effect, they should explain it all to the Secret Service like I did. No one should fall for this trap. I'll get \$12.5 million when I am next in line to become the pope.

— Eugene B.

Clifton, N.J.

**Dear Eugene:** I assume from your letter that you're not waiting for a visit from the College of Cardinals. I'm sure my readers will be grateful for the warning, as well as the reminder that most things that seem too good to be true — usually aren't.



**Dear Abby:** My

27-year-old, "Ken," has lots of issues and drama. Our relationship has always been rocky. Nothing I have ever done has been good enough.

Ken calls me on the phone and calls me names. I have gone through years of therapy and am doing pretty well, but when I have

contact with him I regress 13 years.

We hadn't spoken since Christmas because I stopped answering the phone when he called. However, last night I did pick up. Our conversation started out well, but it peaked to a horrible yelling contest. Ken called me terrible names and blamed me for everything that had happened in his life.

I love Ken, but I don't like him. Is there a way a parent can cut the apron strings?

— Grieving in Texas

**Dear Grieving:** You say that you have had counseling.

Has your son? If the answer is no, urge him to get some and get his life in order. Should he refuse, make it plain that you will no longer tolerate his verbal abuse and again screen your calls. The longer you allow your son to cause you pain, the longer he will do it.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can email at [http://www.uepress.com/dearabby](mailto:http://www.uepress.com/dearabby) or Universal Press Syndicate.

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter for each square, to form four ordinary words.

TRAIE

TIMAD

NARFIA

SPENOR

Answers:

Yesterday's Jumbles: FLUTE QUEER GRIMLY SHAKEN

Answer: Where a pro golfer who hits the greens is likely to end up — IN THE 'GREEN'

## THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



WHAT THE RIDER SUFFERED AFTER THE CROSS-COUNTRY RAIL TRIP.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers tomorrow

# Falsely accused at health club

**Dear Annie:** I am a

member of a health club. Yesterday, the director called and asked me to come in and discuss an "incident."

It seems one of the employees accused me of using a major swear word on two separate occasions. I was shocked, to say the least. They would not tell me the name of the employee, "to protect her."

What about protecting me against this unfounded allegation? I can guess who the employee is. Last month, there were two young children playing tag in the locker room, yelling and running wildly about.

I saw no parent in charge. After 10 minutes of this out-of-control behavior, I asked the children to please be quiet. The gym employee, who was present the entire time, then stated that these were HER children and it was her day off.

I did not report her, but apparently, she now has a problem with me. The director said I'd ever mention that unacceptable word again, I will lose my membership.

**Annie's Mailbox**



Annie, unbeknownst to the club (and its minister), I would NEVER use that kind of language.

Should I file a slander suit against the club?

— California Minister

Dear California: The club has not slandered you, the employee has. If there is another false accusation, insist upon confronting your accuser face to face. It could

be a case of mistaken identity, and if not, you deserve the opportunity to defend yourself.

**Dear Annie:** One of the secretaries in our office recently married.

The head secretary organized a surprise party for the bride-to-be. She collected money for a gift and had everyone sign a card. I never was informed of either, which meant my name wasn't on the card and I did not contribute to the gift. I may have missed the e-mail sent around, but I doubt it. And I clearly remember asking

the head secretary if we were going to get a gift and was told, "No. Just show up for the party."

A few days after the party, I was told it wasn't too late to contribute, so I gave an amount slightly over what everyone else gave in order to make up for my tardiness. However, since the bride returned from her honeymoon, she has been particularly short with me.

I want to find a way to smooth things over. What can I do?

— Vexed in Vermont

Dear Vexed: We suspect someone has deliberately been keeping you in the dark, but let's not jump to conclusions. Ask the bride if she liked the gift all of you sent. Apologize for not signing her card, explaining that you wanted to, but somehow it bypassed your desk.

Throw in some friendly conversation and hope for the best.

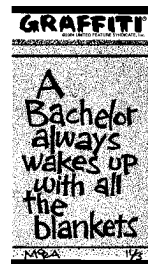
Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [annie@mailbox.com](mailto:annie@mailbox.com), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

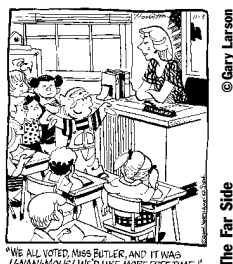
## Family Circus



"You can learn from your mistakes, so be sure to make some."



## Dennis the Menace





## STRIPES CLASSIFIER

<b>Autos for Sale</b>	
- Okinawa	152

maintained engine, towed body, body kit on sides and rear. After-market overdrive lights, 17.5-spoke racing rims. Slope take dock and after market suspension. Call for details. **Lucas** - 623.43.1391 / [alcfex@kda.att.net](mailto:alcfex@kda.att.net)

**Okunawa - 91 Toyota Surf JCI** 10/95, Great AC, 10 disc JCI, 10000, 4 speed JCI. Call **1008-698-1552**

**Schwab - Nissan 300zx** - 1995, fast enough, no need for turbo. JCI until April 2005. Have custom rims, CD player, clock, stereo, new paint. Call **1008-698-1552**. Asking only \$1,500.00. Call **328-3228**.

**Tori Station - 1992 Nissan 300Z**, SR20det, 5-speed JCI, 10000, 4 speed JCI. Call **1008-698-1552**

<b>Autos Wanted</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>Auto Parts</b>	<b>18</b>
Foster - Wanted: Hi_ACE Van in		Foster, Okinawa - GT	

Kadena - Attention 98-01 Yamaha  
R1 owners! I have a set of  
RC comp billet rims. Slightly  
used. Excellent condition, ultra  
light. \$1500.00. Call me at 633-  
3730 and have no R1 to throw  
me on. \$1,000.00 OBO. Must  
call. I appreciate it. Call  
633-3730 also.

Kadena, Oklahoma - 2001 Kawasaki  
sksk1 KX 60 Great starter and  
second bike, adjustable shock to  
allow for rider growth. \$1,000.00  
Call me at 633-6411 or  
090-9589-4800.

Kinsey, Oklahoma - 300zx R  
A/C compressors in great  
condition. \$500.00  
Call me at 633-3730 or  
wennicks@connectnet.net

Kinsey, Oklahoma - I have 1 S  
S13 Silvia headlamps for \$25  
also I have a front strut for  
bar \$50.00 and a gauge po  
with both types \$50.00  
\$37.50/47.

Osan - New parts for  
Dodge Caravan SE V6.  
Motor mount-front, 1 x 1  
1 x 1

Baby Items	200
Foster, Okinawa - Boy's	

**Bicycles** 2200  
Kadena - 26" mens/boys mountain bike, bought in state perfect shape, never used \$90.00 OBO 633-9232

	<b>Boats</b>	<b>240</b>
21	Kadena, Okinawa - Sailbo	

009 textbook and solution manual, 7th ED. Used, but in good condition. \$40. Please call Emily at 646-8022.

Foster, Okinawa - UMAC to IFSM 201 used last term. Discovering Comp. 2001 (Shirley Cummings Series) - Misses office book in good condition. \$50.00 for both call Gloria at 645-4950 leave message.

Foster, Okinawa - WANTED - UMAC Comm. 394 textbook. Reasonable priced. Please call Tissa 646-8883

<b>Book Stores</b>	<b>250</b>
<hr/>	
Kadena, Okinawa - PHIL 141	

**Cellular Phones** 280

Foster - Wanted: CELLULAR PHONE: Looking for Cell Phone with English Instructions that uses prepaid card. Please contact Julia @646-5434 or tropliving@yahoo.com

**Clothing** 320

Clothing	320
<hr/>	
Yokota - Mess dress 44/46R	

Kadena, Okinawa - Flat bedded Scanner with instructions and all attachments. Used twice.  
\$40.00. E mail: [mazeresline@yahoo.com](mailto:mazeresline@yahoo.com) or call 633-6519.

Kadena, Okinawa - HP5 Laser Printer \$20 works well

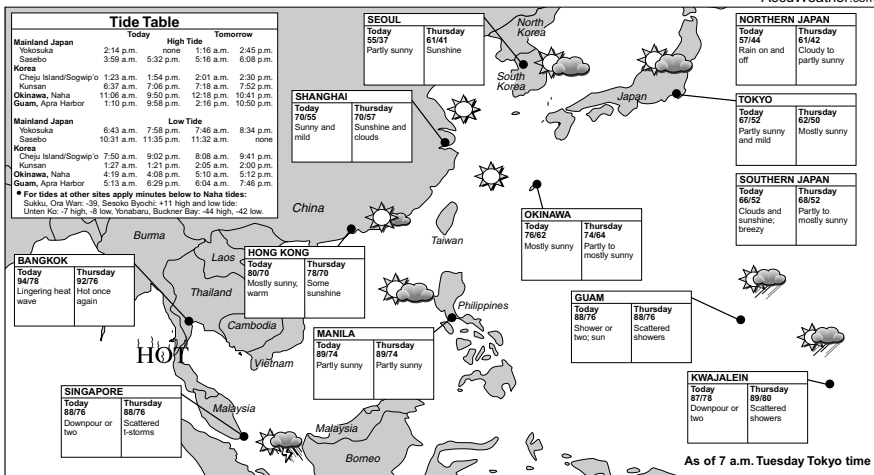




## The Pacific Forecast

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 2004

AccuWeather.com



### Extended Forecasts

## TOKYO

Friday: Partly sunny,  
high 65, low 54.  
Saturday: Showers,  
high 64, low 55.

## KADENA

Friday: Partly sunny,  
high 76, low 67.  
Saturday: Periods of clouds and  
sunshine,  
high 76, low 64.

**SEOUL**

Friday: Periods of clouds and sunshine,  
high 59, low 31.  
Saturday: Partly sunny,  
high 49, low 27

MANILA

Friday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 87, low 74.  
Saturday: Periods of clouds and sunshine,  
high 87, low 73.

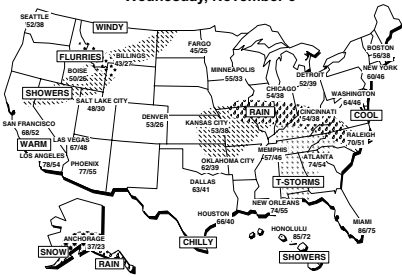
## HAGATNA

Friday: Showers, high 88, low 76.  
Saturday: Partly sunny, high 88, low 78.

### Monday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGHLOW	CITY	HIGHLOW
Albuquerque	42/27	Los Angeles	79
Annapolis	48/31	Los Angeles	76
Asheville	27/10	Massachusetts	76
Baltimore	61/48	Miami	86
Birmingham	87/67	Milwaukee	50
Bismarck	46/28	Nashville	53
Boise	46/31	New York	63
Boston	61/41	Omaha	52
Brownsville	41/31	Orlando	58
Buffalo	52/37	Philadelphia	66
Burlington	49/36	Phoenix	71
Charleston, SC	86/63	Pittsburgh	60
Charlotte	84/62	Portland, ME	52
Chattanooga	62/53	Portland, OR	58
Columbus, OH	60/57	St. Louis	68
Duluth	63/38	San Antonio	81
El Paso	59/38	San Diego	77
Hartford	59/38	San Juan	90
Helena	42/27	Tampa	88
Indianapolis	60/55	Tulsa	67
Jacksonville	67/66	Washington	61
Kansas City	58/42	Wichita	66

Wednesday, November 3



### U.S. Extended Forecast

High pressure will provide sunshine to much of the Northeast and Midwest Wednesday; however, it will be cool. A storm system moving through the Deep South will bring showers and thunderstorms to the region. High pressure will promote sunshine and pleasant conditions throughout the southern Plains and Southwest. A storm system crossing the northern Rockies will bring rain and mountain snow to the region. This storm will move across the Upper Midwest Thursday, prompting a few snow showers in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The storm system in the Deep South will move northeast along the coast, bringing some rain to the eastern Northeast.

### Wednesday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGHLOW	CITY	HIGHLOW	CITY	HIGHLOW
Bangkok	94/78	Iwakuni	63/48	Sasebo NB	63/49
Beijing	60/45	Kadena AB	76/62	Sapporo	57/44
Bombay	69/38	Kanagawa	59/44	Seoul	59/44
Christchurch	68/50	Kwajalein	87/78	Shanghai	70/55
Diego Garcia	83/75	Manila	89/74	Singapore	88/76
Hagatna	89/76	Misawa AB	60/40	Sydney	72/53
Hankow	62/69	Osan	57/39	Taegu	59/43
Hong Kong	80/70	Perth	64/47	Taipei	76/52
Honolulu	85/72	Pusan	61/46	Tokyo	67/62

### Wednesday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGHLOW	CITY	HIGHLOW	CITY	HIGHLOW	CITY	HIGHLOW
Acapulco	91/75	Budapest	65/50	Kabul	72/40	Nairobi	79/51
Athens	72/55	Buenos Aires	72/55	Kiev	46/37	New Delhi	85/55
Auckland	63/51	Cairo	91/67	Kuwait	54/39	Oslo	41/35
Bahia	68/50	Cancun	86/70	London	69/45	Paris	51/35
Barbados	86/70	Cape Town	80/58	Madrid	59/45	Rio de Janeiro	78/58
Barcelona	62/51	Gaza	58/50	Mexico City	70/48	Rome	68/64
Berlin	66/56	Istanbul	65/51	Montreal	48/35	St. Petersburg	46/47
Bermuda	68/56	Jerusalem	66/52	Nagasaki	59/45	Singapore	51/35
Brussels	55/46	Johannesburg	86/61	Moscow	39/34	Warsaw	56/49



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## SCOREBOARD

## AFN-TV &amp; Radio

## Wednesday

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—NFL: Miami at N.Y. Jets (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—NBA: Denver at Detroit.

AFN-Sports, 12:30 p.m.—NBA: Denver at L.A. Lakers.

AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.—NBA: Inside the NBA (L.A. Lakers).

AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.—NBA: Sacramento at Dallas (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.—College football: Toledo at Miami, Ohio (dtd).

## Thursday

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—NBA: Denver at Detroit.

AFN-Sports, 4:30 a.m.—College football: South Florida at Alabama-Birmingham.

AFN-Sports, 9:30 a.m.—NBA: Miami at New Jersey (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 12:30 a.m.—College football: Stanford at UCLA (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.—College football: Stanford at UCLA (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.—NBA: Miami at New Jersey (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 12:30 a.m.—College football: Stanford at UCLA (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.—College football: Stanford at UCLA (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.—NBA: Miami at New Jersey (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 12:30 a.m.—College football: Stanford at UCLA (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.—College football: Stanford at UCLA (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.—NBA: Miami at New Jersey (dtd).

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AFN-Sports, 12:30 a.m.—College football: Stanford at UCLA (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.—College football: Stanford at UCLA (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.—NBA: Miami at New Jersey (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 12:30 a.m.—College football: Stanford at UCLA (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.—College football: Stanford at UCLA (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.—NBA: Miami at New Jersey (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 12:30 a.m.—College football: Stanford at UCLA (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.—College football: Stanford at UCLA (dtd).

## Pro basketball

## NBA

Eastern Conference Atlantic Division

W L Pct GB

Boston 0 0 0.000 -

New York 0 0 0.000 -

Philadelphia 0 0 0.000 -

Toronto 0 0 0.000 -

Southwest Division

W L Pct GB

Atlanta 0 0 0.000 -

Charlotte 0 0 0.000 -

Cleveland 0 0 0.000 -

Detroit 0 0 0.000 -

Indiana 0 0 0.000 -

W L Pct GB

Chicago 0 0 0.000 -

Cleveland 0 0 0.000 -

Detroit 0 0 0.000 -

Indiana 0 0 0.000 -

W L Pct GB

Dallas 0 0 0.000 -

Memphis 0 0 0.000 -

San Antonio 0 0 0.000 -

Utah 0 0 0.000 -

W L Pct GB

Golden State 0 0 0.000 -

L.A. Clippers 0 0 0.000 -

Phoenix 0 0 0.000 -

Portland 0 0 0.000 -

W L Pct GB

Houston at Detroit

Sacramento at Dallas

West Virginia at Toronto

18 Virginia Tech at North Carolina

21 Southern Mississippi vs. Cincinnati

23 Arizona State at Stanford

25 Boston College vs. Rutgers

27 Washington at Memphis

29 New York at Minnesota

31 Dallas at San Antonio

33 L.A. Lakers at Utah

35 Seattle at Phoenix

37 Portland at Golden State

39 Washington at Charlotte

41 Cleveland at Miami

43 Minnesota at Denver

## Pro basketball

## NBA

Western Conference Pacific Division

W L Pct GB

Los Angeles 0 0 0.000 -

Portland 0 0 0.000 -

Sacramento 0 0 0.000 -

Utah 0 0 0.000 -

W L Pct GB

Denver 0 0 0.000 -

Minnesota 0 0 0.000 -

Portland 0 0 0.000 -

Utah 0 0 0.000 -

W L Pct GB

Golden State 0 0 0.000 -

L.A. Clippers 0 0 0.000 -

Phoenix 0 0 0.000 -

Portland 0 0 0.000 -

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39 Washington at Charlotte

41 Cleveland at Miami

43 Minnesota at Denver

45 New York at Minnesota

47 Dallas at San Antonio

49 L.A. Lakers at Utah

51 Seattle at Phoenix

53 Portland at Golden State

55 Washington at Charlotte

57 Cleveland at Miami

59 Minnesota at Denver

61 New York at Minnesota

63 Dallas at San Antonio

65 L.A. Lakers at Utah

67 Seattle at Phoenix

## Golf

## Chrysler Championship

Sunday

At Westview Millbrook Golf Club

Final

W L Pct GB

Vijay Singh, \$1,000,000

Phil Mickelthwait, \$750,000

Johnnie Walker, \$500,000

Gregory Senechal, \$250,000

Tommy Fleetwood, \$200,000

Paul McCartney, \$150,000

George Harrison, \$100,000

Ringo Starr, \$75,000

Paul McCartney, \$50,000

George Harrison, \$25,000

Ringo Starr, \$12,500

Paul McCartney, \$6,250

George Harrison, \$3,125

Ringo Starr, \$1,562

Paul McCartney, \$781

George Harrison, \$390

Ringo Starr, \$195

Paul McCartney, \$97

George Harrison, \$48

Ringo Starr, \$24

Paul McCartney, \$12

George Harrison, \$6

Ringo Starr, \$3

Paul McCartney, \$1

George Harrison, \$0.50

Ringo Starr, \$0.25

Paul McCartney, \$0.12

George Harrison, \$0.06

Ringo Starr, \$0.03

Paul McCartney, \$0.01

George Harrison, \$0.005

Ringo Starr, \$0.002

Paul McCartney, \$0.001

George Harrison, \$0.0005

Ringo Starr, \$0.0002

Paul McCartney, \$0.0001

George Harrison, \$0.00005

Ringo Starr, \$0.00002

Paul McCartney, \$0.00001

George Harrison, \$0.000005

Ringo Starr, \$0.000002

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Ringo Starr, \$1,562

Paul McCartney, \$781

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Ringo Starr, \$195

Paul McCartney, \$97

George Harrison, \$48

Ringo Starr, \$24

Paul McCartney, \$12

George Harrison, \$6

Ringo Starr, \$3

Paul McCartney, \$1

George Harrison, \$0.50

Ringo Starr, \$0.25

Paul McCartney, \$0.12

George Harrison, \$0.06

Ringo Starr, \$0.03

Paul McCartney, \$0.01

George Harrison, \$0.005

Ringo Starr, \$0.002

Paul McCartney, \$0.001

George Harrison, \$0.0005

Ringo Starr, \$0.0002

Paul McCartney, \$0.0001

George Harrison, \$0.00005

Ringo Starr, \$0.00002

Paul McCartney, \$0.00001

George Harrison, \$0.000005

Ringo Starr, \$0.000002

## College football

## Top 25 schedule

Thursday, Nov. 4

No. 14 Louisville at Oregon State

No. 2 Oklahoma at No. 16 Texas A&M

No. 4 California vs. Oregon

No. 2 Wisconsin vs. Minnesota

No. 6 Texas vs. No. 20 Oklahoma State

No. 1 Utah vs. Colorado

No. 8 Georgia at Kentucky

Kennesaw vs. Notre Dame

No. 11 Virginia vs. Clemson

No. 13 Florida State vs. Duke

No. 15 West Virginia vs. Tennessee

No. 18 Virginia Tech at North Carolina

No. 20 South Carolina vs. Georgia

No. 21 Southern Mississippi vs. Cincinnati

No. 23 Arizona State at Stanford

No. 25 Boston College vs. Rutgers

No. 27 Washington at Memphis

No. 29 New York at Minnesota

No. 31 Dallas at San Antonio

No. 33 L.A. Lakers at Utah

No. 35 Seattle at Phoenix

No. 37 Portland at Golden State

No. 39 Washington at Charlotte

No. 41 Cleveland at Miami

No. 43 Minnesota at Denver

# Work ethic news carry Singh to new heights

BY DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The mayor wanted a picture with him.

The owner of the Jacksonville Jaguars wanted a word with his friend. Civic leaders simply wanted to shake his hand.

Vijay Singh was the star attraction Monday at a luncheon where the PGA Tour announced \$22.5 million in charitable giving from The Players Championship. It was another example of just how far the 41-year-old Fijian has come.

He was a club pro in Borneo in 1985, making minimum wage plus \$10 a lesson and practicing in his free time. He was a bouncer in Scotland two years later, stashing away money to play in a two-hit tournament in Africa, the first small step toward a European tour card, then a PGA Tour card.

He stood before the lunch crowd in a downtown hotel as the No. 1 player in the world and the first \$10 million man in golf, a rags-to-riches story unlike any other on the PGA Tour.

They listened intently as Singh talked about this week's Tour Championship, in which he can join Sam Snead, Ben Hogan and Byron Nelson as the only players to win the title in one year.

"I'm really thinking of taking this week off," Singh said as the crowd erupted in laughter.

Everyone knows better.

His work ethic is legendary, and it has carried Singh to unimaginable heights.

Despite reaching No. 1 in the world two months earlier, Singh continued his routine of working out in the gym and on the range, sometimes before and after a round. Small wonder that he captured the Chrysler Championship at Inverhock on Sunday, his ninth victory of the year.

It was his fourth PGA Tour victory in his last five starts. The other time he finished second.

The season finale is East Lake in Atlanta, where Singh won two years ago. The other two times he played at East Lake, he finished third (2000) and lost in a playoff to Hal Sutton (1998).

"I'm going there with a little fire in the belly now," Singh said. "I think my game is OK."

There was a time not long ago when Singh and the rest of his peers would see Tiger Woods' name atop the leaderboard and be able to push two words aside: "Now when I look at the leaderboard, I see everyone coming after me," Singh said. "It's a good feeling."

If he is comfortable in the lead — Singh



Vijay Singh of Fiji won the Chrysler Championship on Sunday, becoming the sixth golfer to win nine PGA events in a season.

now has won 11 straight tournaments after at least sharing the 54-hole lead — he also is more at ease in front of a large crowd.

And he is starting to give back to the community in which he lived the last 10 years.

The Singh family — including wife Arundha and 14-year-old son Qass — established the Vijay Singh Charitable Foundation to provide relief for women and children who are victims of domestic abuse.

The Betty Griffin House of St. John's County will be one of the first beneficiaries.

"It's about time we took a step forward and did something with the community," Singh said. "If we can touch even one or two lives, it will make a big difference."

Singh has said it might take a while for the success to sink in. The season must feel like a blur at times as Singh goes from one tournament to the next, usually leaving with the trophy. Only Hogan, Snead, Nelson, Woods and Paul Runyan have won as many as nine tournaments in a year.

Singh has reached that level where no one is surprised to see his name atop the leaderboard. When he made consecutive bogeys early in the third round, he was six shots behind Jeff Sluman. By the end of the day, he was leading the tournament. And when it was over, Singh won by five shots, his biggest blowout of the year.

"It's amazing," Jesper Parnevik said. "It's just as amazing as Tiger was four years ago."

PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem recalls seeing Singh in the gym around Christmas some five years ago. The Fijian was pumping weights, and Finchem asked why.

"I said, 'I need to hit it farther. I've got to hit it where I target is if I'm going to beat him,'" Finchem recalled. "He's hitting it there now, and he's hitting it in the fairway."

## Diamondbacks select Backman as manager

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Wally Backman was hired Monday as manager of the Arizona Diamondbacks, taking over a team coming off one of the worst seasons in major league history.

A former New York Mets second baseman with a reputation for intensity in the dugout, Backman was selected minor league manager of the year this season by The Sporting News after leading Class A Lancaster to the best record in the California League. It was his first year in the Diamondbacks' organization.

Backman, 45, was given a two-year contract with two team options. He was chosen over former Seattle manager Bob Melvin and Montreal Expos third base coach Manny Acta.

Backman played 14 seasons in the major leagues, the first nine with the Mets. He had a .275 career average with 240 RBIs and 117 stolen bases.

He missed over a franchise that dropped to a 5-11 record last season, the worst in the seven-year history of the Diamondbacks, who won the World Series title in 2001. It was the 10th-highest loss total in major league history.

### Drug overdose killed Caminiti

NEW YORK — A drug overdose killed former NL MVP Ken Caminiti, who admitted using steroids during his playing days and tested positive for cocaine in the days before he died.

Coronary artery disease and an enlarged heart were listed as contributing factors in the death of Caminiti, Grace Bruggess, spokes-

### Sports briefs

woman for the New York City Medical Examiner, said Monday. She said the death had been ruled an accident.

The 15-year major league veteran, who won the NL MVP award in 1996, admitted in a Houston court just days before he died that he had tested positive for cocaine. Caminiti, 41, died Oct. 10 in the Bronx.

Tissue and toxicology tests confirmed Caminiti's cause of death as "acute intoxication due to the combined effects of cocaine and opiates," Bruggess said. She said those drugs had weakened his heart.

### Astros GM Hunsicker resigns

HOUSTON — Houston Astros General Manager Gerry Hunsicker resigned Monday, less than two weeks after the team came within one win of reaching the World Series for the first time.

"It has been an incredible nine years, and when I look back I will take with me a lifetime of memories," said Hunsicker, who had the job for nine years.

Tim Lincecum, Hunsicker's assistant and the team's director of player development, will succeed him immediately.

During Hunsicker's tenure, the Astros won four NL Central titles and finished second three times, including this past season.

### Tie puts Revolution in MLS conference finals

COLUMBUS, Ohio — New England goalkeeper Matt Reis saved two Columbus Crew penalty

kicks, helping the Revolution advance to the MLS Eastern Conference finals with a 1-1 tie Sunday night.

The Crew had made a league-record 20 straight successful penalty kicks before Sunday, ending a streak that began in 1999.

### Bobcats deal Hunter to Magic

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Charlotte Bobcats traded forward Brandon Hunter to the Orlando Magic on Monday in exchange for guard Keith Bogans.

Hunter was picked by the Bobcats in the expansion draft after playing his rookie season in Boston, averaging 3.5 points and 3.3 rebounds in 36 games.

### Bulls buy out Robinson

DEERFIELD, Ill. — The Chicago Bulls parted ways with forward Eddie Robinson on Monday, buying out the last two years of his contract for \$10.5 million and ending a relationship that's been strained since he arrived.

Robinson had two years and \$13.9 million left on the deal he signed in 2001.

## Duke looking up at Wake Forest, UNC

### Blue Devils rank fourth in ACC preseason poll

BY KEITH PATRICKS

The Associated Press

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Wake Forest was picked to win the Atlantic Coast Conference regular season title, the first time in five years a team other than Duke had that honor.

Still, no one feels sorry for the Blue Devils, least of all coach Mike Krzyzewski.

"I don't think anybody's saying we're going to have down year. I think they're just picking some teams ahead of us," he said Sunday during ACC Operation Basketball. "We'll have a good team, we have good players. We just don't have as many of them."

Duke lost starters Chris Duhon and Luol Deng, and prized recruit Shaun Livingston decided to skip college altogether and head to the NBA. In the poll of 91 media members, the Blue Devils earned three first-place votes and were picked fourth, following the Demon Deacons, North Carolina and Georgia Tech.

North Carolina State rounded out the top five, just ahead of Maryland.

"It's a little different," Duke guard J.J. Redick said. "Even my freshman year, we had like six freshmen and one or two seniors, and we were picked first."

"It doesn't really say we're a bad team. The league is so deep."

That it is. Eleven of the 15 teams selected to all-conference teams last season return, and Wake Forest and North Carolina have their entire rosters back. Many preseason polls — including the coaches' — have six conference teams in the top 20.

"The ACC is special, it's unique," Virginia coach Pete Gillen said. "Last year, we had one of the best years we ever had from top to bottom, and this year might be better. It's good to say it, but it's not good to play it."

Florida State was picked seventh, followed by the Cavaliers, Clemson and new members Virginia Tech and Miami.

Wake Forest point guard Chris Paul was selected preseason player of the year, edging Julius Hodge of N.C. State. They were joined on the All-ACC team by Redick and Rashad McCants and Sean May of North Carolina.

Last year, the Demon Deacons finished third in the conference, four games behind Duke. Now, at least three polls have ranked No. 1 in the country.

"To be honest with you, you see it, you look at it and you shake your head, but you can't waste one nanosecond to worry about it," coach Skip Prosser said. "It's a tough situation, but I don't think that I'll ever change."

Duke hasn't been picked this low since before the 1996-97 season, when it went on to win the regular season title over Wake Forest and North Carolina.

The previous year, the Blue Devils finished fourth in Knoxville's first season after taking a leave of absence to have back surgery.

Since then, they have stayed in the top five. Tech coach Paul Hewitt expects them to be a contender again.

"He hasn't won all those games for a while, but he's a Tech coach. He's got some pretty talented players over there. I don't think they'll have many problems."



# Johnson fools himself with late surge

Driver thought he had no chance at Nextel Cup title; three straight wins changed outlook

By PAUL NEWBERRY

The Associated Press

HAMPTON, Ga. — Jimmie Johnson is a realist.

When he finished 37th at Talladega, then 32nd at Kansas City, he figured that was it. No chance of winning his first Nextel Cup championship this year. Might as well start looking ahead to 2005.

Of course, Johnson didn't count on winning three races in a row.

His latest victory came Sunday, overcoming Mark Martin's dominant car at Atlanta Motor Speedway. Johnson is the first Cup racer since 1998 to win three straight in a season.

"It is just amazing," Johnson said. "I thought three weeks ago, with the way that some of the teams have been working ... there was no way that circumstances would work out to allow us to have a shot at it."

They have.

Points leader Kurt Busch had a terrible day in Atlanta, going out with a blown engine and a 42nd-place finish. Six others in the championship playoff also



NASCAR driver Jimmie Johnson talks with a crew member in the garage area at Atlanta Motor Speedway, where Johnson won his third straight race last Sunday. Johnson's car is adorned with images of Hendrick Motorsports members who were killed when their plane crashed last week near Martinsville, Va.

had major problems, winding up far behind Johnson.

Suddenly, it's a race again for the title — with Johnson right in the middle of it.

Busch leads with only three events to go, but second-place Johnson has closed within 59 points. He knocked 148 points off his deficit in a single day, also

jumping two spots in the standings.

Third-place Jeff Gordon, No. 4 Martin and No. 5 Dale Earnhardt are all within 98 points of the lead.

Johnson doesn't want to stop now. His eyes are firmly on Victory Lane. He sees no reason why he can't close the year with a six-race winning streak — even though that's never happened in NASCAR's modern era.

"It is a whole new world for us," Johnson said. "Nobody can play defense. Everyone is going to have to be on offense."

He was on top of the standings when his car overhauled, dumping him to ninth in the standings. When he slammed the wall at Kansas City, his title hopes appeared doomed.

Looking back, Johnson feels the team became too defensive, in- tent on protecting its spot in the

standings instead of trying to win races.

"When we had a 230-second stopping-point lead and we were in a position to defend, it just fell through our fingers," he said.

"When we play offense, we're as good as any body."

Despite engine woes, Johnson began the 10-race championship playoff in second place. He really began to plummet in the new format, which bunched up the top 10 drivers for a sprint to the finish.

Johnson had decent finishes at New Hampshire (11th) and Dover (10th) but still fell to fourth. He went out at Talladega when his car overhauled, dumping him to ninth in the standings. When he slammed the wall at Kansas City, his title hopes appeared doomed.

At that juncture, Johnson figured there was nothing to lose. He was a staggering 247 points off the lead and, more significant-

ly, there were seven drivers between him and Busch.

That drop in the standings seemed to take the pressure off Johnson.

He won at Charlotte. He won at Martinsville. He won at Atlanta, even though Martin clearly had the best car on the track.

Martin led 227 of the 325 laps and Johnson only 17 — but was in front for the one that counted. He now has seven victories for the year, two more than any other driver.

"If we just keep going out and doing what we've done these last three races, and just act like we have been to win the next three races, then everything will take care of itself," Johnson said.

"We're going to try to win six in a row. I don't want to sound cocky or anything, but the mind-set that we've had of going out and taking care of business has worked."

Johnson could wind up dueling his boss for the championship.

Gordon, who won four straight races in 1998, owns the No. 48 Chevrolet through his lucrative deal with Hendrick Motorsports.

Both sides say that won't cause any problems. The teams work out of the same shop. They share information. They pull for each other.

"It's never been the 24 (Gordon's car) vs. the 48," said Chad Knaus, Johnson's crew chief. "There's no rivalry or animosity. There's nothing there but brotherly competition."

Both teams have plenty of motivation. A Hendrick Motorsports plane crashed on its way to the race in Martinsville, killing all 10 people on board. The victims included the brother, son and twin nieces of team owner Rick Hendrick, along with two other key members of the organization.

Johnson won Sunday's race with pictures of the 10 victims painted on the hood of his car, accompanied by the message: "Always In Our Hearts."

"If we're racing the 24 for the championship at Homestead," Knaus said, referring to the season-ending race, "that would mean we're doing what we're supposed to do. That's what Rick Hendrick hired us to do. He wanted the two best teams in the shop competing for the championship."

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## Winners of three straight NASCAR races

The Associated Press

Drivers in NASCAR's top series who have won three consecutive races in a season since the modern era began in 1972.

2004 — Jimmie Johnson (Charlotte, Martinsville, Atlanta).

1998 — Jeff Gordon (Pocono, Indianapolis, Watkins Glen, Michigan).

1996 — Jeff Gordon (Dover, Martinsville, North Wilkesboro).

1994 — Rusty Wallace (Dover, Pocono, Michigan).

1993 — Mark Martin (Watkins Glen, Brooklyn, Bristol, Darlington).

1993 — Rusty Wallace (Bristol, North Wilkesboro, Martinsville).

1992 — Bill Elliott (Rockingham, Richmond, Atlanta, Darlington).

1991 — Harry Gant (Darlington, Richmond, Dover, Martinsville).

1988 — Rusty Wallace (Charlotte, North Wilkesboro, Rockingham).

1987 — Dale Earnhardt (Bristol, Darlington, Richmond).

1987 — Dale Earnhardt (Darlington, North Wilkesboro, Bristol, Martinsville).

1983 — Bobby Allison (Darlington, Richmond, Dover).

1981 — Darrell Waltrip (Martinsville, North Wilkesboro, Charlotte, Rockingham).

1976 — David Pearson (Charlotte, Riverside, Michigan).

1976 — Cale Yarborough (Richmond, Dover, Martinsville, North Wilkesboro).

1975 — Richard Petty (Bristol, Atlanta, North Wilkesboro).

1974 — Richard Petty (Atlanta, Pocono, Talladega).

1973 — David Pearson (Darlington, Martinsville, Talladega).

1972 — Bobby Allison (Bristol, Trenton, Atlanta).

# Hurricanes finding other goals to pursue

## Disappointed Miami likely out of title race

By TIM REYNOLDS  
The Associated Press

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — Optimism comes easily to Larry Coker, considering his teams rarely lose.

Miami's stunning 31-28 loss at North Carolina on Saturday night might have knocked the Hurricanes out of the national championship picture, ended a 10-game winning streak and was only the fourth loss in Coker's 45 games since taking over as head coach.

No matter how he tried Sunday, Coker couldn't mask some disappointment. Still, he insisted the Hurricanes — who are in a three-way tie atop the Atlantic Coast Conference and play Clemson at home Saturday — have plenty of goals worth pursuing.

"We've certainly got a lot to play for," Coker said. "It's more about us than it is a national title. It's more about us even than Clemson. We've got to get our ship righted, our ducks in a row, all the clichés you can say. It's more about us than anybody else."

And although North Carolina deserves plenty of credit for not being intimidated by big, bad Miami — which entered the game ranked No. 4, and dropped to 11th in Sunday's AP Top 25 poll — the Hurricanes (6-1) lost the game because its defense has become, well, offensive.

The Golden Bears (6-1, 4-1 Pac-10) beat Arizona State 27-0 Saturday night to record consecutive shutouts for the first time since 1968. The next — their highest rank since Oct. 20, 1952.

Cal's remarkable three-year turnaround was led by coach Jeff Tedford, whose offense, which captured the nation's attention during week after week of high-scoring performances. Tedford's club led the nation in total offense last week before dropping to fourth with 492.4 yards per game.

But there's a new coaching star in Berkeley: Bob Gregory's defense has carried the Bears to recent nights.

"We really have to give all the credit to our defense for this one, because our offense struggled," said quarterback Aaron Rodgers, who passed for just 165 yards and one touchdown against Arizona State. "We've got some injuries on offense, and it was great to see the D shutting them down."

30 first downs, plus couldn't stop North Carolina's 65-yard march that set up Connor Barth's winning 42-yard field goal as time expired.

Everything the Tar Heels tried against Miami's defense worked.

North Carolina ran for 279 yards and passed for 266 more against a defensive unit that, three games ago, was ranked among the nation's best.

Not anymore.

"We weren't able to take away one side of their offense," Coker said. "They could run the ball and pass the ball."

Brock Berlin and the offense bailed out Miami's defense against Louisville and North Carolina State, games where the Hurricanes allowed 507 and 440 yards, respectively. But against North Carolina, 338 yards passing from Berlin, 28 points and no turnovers by the offense still weren't enough.

"I don't know what we're supposed to feel right now," safety Brandon McInnesworth said after Saturday's game. "I'm not used to losing."

If there is some consolation right now for the Hurricanes, it's this: Win out, and they'll be back in a Bowl Championship Series game for the fifth straight year, this time as ACC champions.

Five teams are separated by a half-game in the ACC race, with Miami, Virginia and Virginia Tech all sharing first place with 3-1 league marks. Miami is at Virginia on Nov. 13, and ends the regular season at home against the Hokies Dec. 4.



Miami defenders Tavares Gooden and Greg Threat make the stop against UNC's Jesse Holley. Miami gave up 545 yards and 30 first downs to the Tar Heels on Saturday.

"We're a resilient bunch, we're a tough bunch, we know there's a lot of season left and we've got some tough football games

left," Coker said. "That's a little bit of the beauty of college football. We do have some more opportunities."

## Stingy D propels Cal to historic rank

By GREG BEACHAM  
The Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. — A superb quarterback, a dominant running game and an inventive offensive scheme can take a team only so far.

California needed two fantastic defensive efforts to reach its highest ranking in 52 years.

The Golden Bears (6-1, 4-1 Pac-10) beat Arizona State 27-0 Saturday night to record consecutive shutouts for the first time since 1968. The next — their highest rank since Oct. 20, 1952.

Cal's remarkable three-year turnaround was led by coach Jeff Tedford, whose offense, which captured the nation's attention during week after week of high-scoring performances. Tedford's club led the nation in total offense last week before dropping to fourth with 492.4 yards per game.

But there's a new coaching star in Berkeley: Bob Gregory's defense has carried the Bears to recent nights.

The Bears are 14th in the nation in total defense, allowing 282.2 yards per game. After shutting out Arizona 38-0 a week earlier, Cal clamped down on Andrew Walter and the Sun Devils, frustrating one of the West Coast's best teams into a terrible performance.

Tedford gives Gregory complete autonomy over the defense, and the unit struggled at times during the last two years while the coaches recruited players good enough to compete with the Pac-10's best. Now that Cal's roster is teeming with talent, Gregory has all the tools he needs.

But Gregory, a former Washington State defensive back who still looks athletic enough to cover a wideback, has been extremely aggressive in taking credit for his defense's accomplishments. He often seems to take praise of his game plan as an insult to his players.

"It's all effort by the guys," Gregory said. "There are no geniuses in coaching, guys. It's all about good players playing their games off ... When we got close to a shutout, I could hear these guys telling each other, 'Keep it going, keep it going.'"

Arizona State couldn't reach Cal territory in the first half, managing just 123 yards. After falling behind 13-0, the Sun Devils were forced to take risks — and backup cornerback Tim Mixon intercepted an ill-advised



California running back J.J. Arington, turning the corner for some of his 188 yards against Arizona State on Saturday.

pass in the third quarter, returning it 58 yards for the score that started the blowout.

Gregory blitzed cautiously, relying on his defensive line and linebackers to keep Walter uncomfortable. It worked: Cal held Walter to 238 yards passing while sucking him five times.

Gregory credits the defense's improvements to the return of nine players who were new starters last season. Their familiarity with Gregory's scheme was obvious when Cal held top-ranked Southern California to 205 yards last month — but still lost 23-17, a result that still rankles the Bears.

"It feels good to be where we are, but then there's that little itching in the back of your mind that we could have beat USC, and then where would we be?" Riddle asked.

## Things could only get worse for Texas A&M

By JOEL ANDERSON  
The Associated Press

WACO, Texas — Texas A&M can pretty much forget about the Big 12 South title, an improbable Bowl Championship Series berth or any momentum heading into its showdown against Oklahoma.

The Bad News Baylor Bears made sure of it.

Shawn Bell found Dominique Zeigler in the end zone for the winning 2-point conversion a play after they connected on a 12-yard touchdown pass in overtime, lifting Baylor to a 35-34 victory over Texas A&M on Saturday night.

The stunning finish was perhaps the perfect end to an improbable upset.

"I expected them to go for the 2-point conversion," Aggies coach Dennis Franchione said. "They ran that play excellently."

The Baylor players piled on top of each other in the corner of the end zone while students rushed the field, turning it into a green and gold mush pit. They parted into the night long after the big win, pulling down the south gate post and carrying it up and out of Floyd Casey Stadium.

A&M players and fans watched the improbable scene in utter disbelief: The Aggies had won the last 13 games against their overmatched rival, including a 73-10 rout at College Station last year.

This was an upset 18 years in the making, and it couldn't have come at a worse time for Texas A&M (6-2, 4-1 Big 12).

The loss dropped the Aggies six spots in the AP poll to No. 22 and took a lot of the sizzle out of their matchup with No. 2 Oklahoma in College Station next Saturday. It would have been a battle of unbeaten teams in the Big 12 South.

"We can't sit around and hang our head on this loss," A&M quarterback Reggie McNeal said. "We've got to bounce back from this."

Aggies tailback Courtney Lewis had a puzzling explanation for the loss, given what A&M had at stake going into the game.

"They just wanted it more than we did," he said.

The Aggies had flirted with danger the week before against Colorado, pulling out a thrilling three-point win in overtime.

Their luck finally ran out A&M, which had committed one turnover in the previous seven games, lost two fumbles, an interception and had a punt blocked.

McNeal committed his first two turnovers of the season in the loss with the interception and a fumble. He had been the only starting quarterback in Division I-A without an interception this season.

With regular season games left against the Sooners, Texas Tech and No. 6 Texas, things could easily get worse for A&M.

"We've got OU coming in next week," Appel said. "So we can punt and feel sorry for ourselves or go back and keep working to get better."

# Auburn moves up in BCS standings

BY RALPH D. RUSSO  
The Associated Press

Auburn moved into third place in the Bowl Championship Series on Monday while Southern California and Oklahoma held firmly to the top two spots.

The Tigers had been in fourth place in the first two BCS standings, but they took advantage of Miami's upset loss on Saturday to creep closer to the front-runners.

California moved up four spots to fourth, and is followed by Wisconsin and Utah.

Miami and Florida State, which was also upset on the road Saturday, fell out of the BCS top five for the first time this season.

The top two teams in the BCS standings after the regular season will meet in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 4.

USC, which has been in first place since the initial BCS standings three weeks ago, has a grade of 96.95. The Trojans are No. 1 in the Associated Press Top 25 and the ESPN/USA Today coaches poll. They are also tied with Oklahoma for the best computer ranking this week.

The Sooners, No. 2 in both polls all season, have a grade of 96.48.

Auburn's grade is 92.38, placing third in each poll and the computer rankings.

The AP media poll and coaches poll each count for one-third of a team's BCS grade. Total points received in the polls are taken into account. A compilation of six computer rankings make up the other third of a grade, with the highest and lowest computer rankings for each team thrown out.

There are six unbeaten teams in Division I-A — USC, Oklahoma, Auburn, Wisconsin, Utah and Boise State.

Auburn's BCS ranking is the highest in school history, but the Tigers may not have their national title hopes in their own hands.

Even if they finish the season unbeaten with a victory in the Southeastern Conference championship game, the Tigers might need a loss by either USC or Oklahoma to reach the Orange Bowl.

A difficult remaining schedule could work in Auburn's favor, if the Tigers can survive it. They're off this week before playing Georgia (ninth in the BCS) at home on Nov. 13; at Alabama on the No. 10, and the SEC title game against either Georgia or Tennessee (eighth in the BCS) on Dec. 4.



Utah quarterback Alex Smith drags San Diego State's Heath Farwell on Saturday. The No. 6 Utes are trying to earn a BCS bowl bid.

A separate strength of schedule component was removed from the BCS standings this season, but the computer rankings still take schedule strength into account, as do most poll voters.

Utah, from the Mountain West

Conference, could become the first team from a mid-major league to earn a bid to one of the four BCS games by finishing in the top six.

The Utes have a grade of 74.29. Texas (73.70) is seventh.

# Fla. teams tumble in AP Top 25

BY RALPH D. RUSSO  
The Associated Press

Miami and Florida State tumbled in The Associated Press poll on Sunday, falling out of the top 10 after being upset on the road.

The Hurricanes' first loss of the season, a 31-28 defeat at North Carolina, dropped them seven spots to No. 11 in the media poll. They were one of five ranked teams to lose on the road to unranked opponents Saturday.

The Seminoles lost 20-17 at Maryland to snap a six-game winning streak. They fell eight spots to No. 13.

Southern California is No. 1 and Oklahoma is No. 2 for the 10th straight poll. Texas-El Paso is No. 25 as coach Mike Price has the Miners in the rankings for the first time in their history.

USC received 56 first-place votes and 1,616 points after a 42-17 victory at Washington State. The Sooners got eight first-place votes, five less than last week, and 1,556 points after squeaking by Oklahoma State 35-35 on Saturday.

The Sooners are back on the road next week at Texas A&M.

"It is another big game and an important game in the Big 12," Sooners coach Bob Stoops said.

Texas A&M was upset 35-34 in overtime at Baylor and fell six spots to No. 22.

No. 3 Auburn (8-0) received a first-place vote. California moved up three spots to No. 4, its highest ranking since 1952, and Wisconsin (6-0) is No. 5.

Rounding out the first 10 are Texas, Utah, Georgia, Tennessee and Michigan.

The top five teams in the ESPN/USA Today coaches poll are Southern California, Oklahoma, Auburn, Wisconsin and Georgia.

In the AP poll, No. 12 Virginia is right behind Miami and in front of Florida State.

No. 14 is Louisville, followed by West Virginia, unbeaten Boise State, LSU, Virginia Tech, Oklahoma State and Iowa.

Joining Texas A&M and UTEP in the final five are No. 21 Southern Mississippi, No. 23 Arizona State and No. 24 Boston College, all of whom lost in their season debut in the rankings.

Price's Miners (6-2) are in the midst of one of the best turnarounds of the season. They clinched just their second winning season in the last 16 years with a 38-20 win over San Jose State and matched their victory total for the three previous seasons combined.

Falling out of the rankings was Purdue, which lost its third straight, 13-10 at Northwestern. The Boilermakers were No. 5 just three weeks ago.

Minnesota also dropped out after losing 30-21 at Indiana.

# As losses pile up, so do questions for Paterno

Maybe it's just a coincidence that the toughest stretch of Joe Paterno's career arrives as the hourglass is about to be about to turn over on his 78th year.

Or maybe not.

After just one losing season in his first 34 at Penn State, Paterno was guaranteed his fourth in the last five following a 21-10 beating Saturday at Ohio State. During that run, the Nittany Lions have lost not just their teeth, but their aura. By now, it's fair to ask whether they're likely to regain either as long as Paterno remains in charge.

Last season, skeptics doubted his play-calling and clock-management skills, as well as whether

a coach who defined the term "old school" could maintain discipline on a squad filled out by the "me-first" generation. Despite a 3-9 finish, Penn State's administration gave him a four-year contract extension, hoping to soothe critics as well as recruits by making it clear that JoePa would be around for a while. Already, the deal has had the opposite effect.

Paterno keeps saying, "We're not that far off," but there is nothing to substantiate that and no one who has the coach's ear seems inclined to pass the message along. It's increasingly apparent that Penn State can't score enough to be competitive in the Big Ten, can't win on the road and can no longer take any body in the conference for granted.

On top of that, Paterno hasn't proven that he can compete with the league's "Big Two," Michigan and Ohio State, for spotlight honors on a regular basis and even whether he can still develop the talent he does have.

Playing at home 10 days ago, Penn State

managed just two safeties in a 6-4 loss to Iowa, and one of those was a gift. In the Ohio State game, the Buckeyes ran a total of six plays and netted just 12 yards in the first quarter, but led 14-0. What tied those two latest losses together was the performance of quarterback Michael Robinson, who filled in for injured starter Zack Mills and closed out the Iowa game with two interceptions and a fumble on the final three plays, then began the Ohio State game by throwing two interceptions in his first three pass attempts.

The point is not to blame Robinson, who, after all, takes most of his snaps in practice as a wide receiver and running back, was coming back from a severe neck injury, and found himself playing behind the same porous offensive line that couldn't protect Mills from suffering a concussion in the Iowa game. The point is that Robinson probably shouldn't have been playing QB in the first place, a fact that Paterno is either too blind or stubborn to acknowledge.

A few weeks ago, even as the offensive problems continued to mount — Penn State averaged fewer than seven points per game in five losses under Mills — Paterno insisted that had Robinson been playing, the Nittany Lions would have beaten Wisconsin, Minnesota and Purdue.

Asked what evidence that was based on, the coach simply said, "I have coached great football players for 55 years. If I tell you that Michael Robinson is one of the best football players I have ever coached and one of the best in the country, don't question me." And just last week, when the available evidence on Robinson suggested otherwise, and the Nittany Lions' sorry record practically begged for freshman Anthony Morelli to get behind the controls, instead Paterno wasn't adequately prepared to face Ohio State.

When a writer asked, "Why not?" Paterno replied, "He's not adequately prepared."

Asked whether Morelli knew the plays, Pa-



Ohio State coach Jim Tressell and Penn State coach Joe Paterno shake hands after Saturday's game.

terno said again, "He's not adequately prepared."

The troubling part, beyond Paterno's obstinacy, is that his son, Jay, happens to be Penn State's quarterbacks coach. The Nittany Lions have three games left against Northwestern, Indiana and Michigan State, and rather than worry about winning those, it would serve the program better to find out as soon as possible if Jay Paterno can make certain that Morelli is "adequately prepared" to face the future.

After all, it's one thing for JoePa, who practically built the program from scratch, won two national championships and personally donated \$4 million, to feel a sense of entitlement. It's quite another when his kid starts feeling the same way.

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at: jlitke@ap.org

Jim Litke

**Chargers 42, Raiders 14**

kland	0 7 7 0-14
n Diene	14 14 14 0-42

**First Quarter**  
SD—Peelle 17 pass from Brees (Kaeding kick), 11:14.  
SD—Tomlinson 1 run (Kaeding kick), :08.

**Second Quarter**  
Oak—Wheatley 5 run (Janikowski kick), 0:02.  
SD—McCardell 13 pass from Brees (Kaeding kick), 4:56.  
SD—Dwight 23 pass from Brees (Kaeding kick), :36.

**Third Quarter**  
SD—Gates 5 pass from Brees (Kaeding kick), 12:05.  
SD—Gates 1 pass from Brees (Kaeding kick), 3:08.  
Oak—Jolley 13 pass from Collins (Janikowski kick), :02.  
A—NA.

**Oak SD**

Net Yards	281	448
Shes-yards	11-22	38-175
ccion	250	275

kick Returns	1-18	4-62
punt Returns	5-94	2-71
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	2-17
Comp-Att-Int	24-32	22-25-0
Packed-Yards Lost	1-48	1-39
Fumbles	5-50	4-48
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	1-1.7
Penalties-Yards	10-75	7-46
Time of Possession	24:30	35:30

### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

**Rushing—Oakland.** Zereoue 6-(minus 1), rhearty 4-23, Redmond 1-0. **San Diego.** Tomp-son 19-71, Chatman 12-69, Brees 2-21, Neal 1-14.

**Passing—Oakland.** Collins 24-39-2-263. **San Diego.** Brees 22-25-0-281.

**Receiving—Oakland.** Zereoue 5-42, Porter 5-50, Nye 4-22, Gabriel 3-56, Redmond 2-9, Jolley 3-22, Anderson 1-28, Morant 1-29. **San Diego.** Parker 6-91, Gates 5-63, Mc-

Missed field goals—None.

**Steelers 34, Patriots 20**

New England	3	7	3	7	20
Pittsburgh	21	3	10	0	34

**First Quarter**

NE-FG Vinatieri 43, 11:39.  
Pit-Burrell 47 pass from Roethlisberger  
Reed kick, 3:46.  
Pit-Burrell 4 pass from Roethlisberger  
Reed kick, 2:29.  
Pit-Townsend 39 interception return, :13.

**Second Quarter**

Pit-FG Reed 19, 2:06  
NE-Givens 2 pass from Brady (Vinatieri  
kick), :42.

**Third Quarter**

Pit-Bettis 2 run (Reed kick), 13:06.  
NE-FG Vinatieri 25, 10:41.  
Pit-FG Reed 29, 2:06.

**Fourth Quarter**

A-64737.

	NE	Pit
first downs	19	25
Total Net Yards	248	417
rush-yards	6-5	49-271
passing	243	196
turn Returns	3-15	2-10
kickoff Returns	6-158	5-136
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	2-39
comp-Att-int	25-43-2	18-24-0
sacked-Yards Lost	4-28	0-0
fumbles-Lost	3-2	4-44.3
umbles-Yards	3-52	1-40
penalties-Yards	6-55	9-90
Time of Possession	17:02	42:58

**INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS**

**Rushing—New England:** Faulk 5-4, Cobbs 1-1, Pittman 1-1, Staley 25-125, Staley 15-115, Haynes 3-17, Ward 1-11, Roethlisberger 5-31.

**Passing—New England:** Brady 25-43-2, 227.1.

**Tsrburn:** Roethlisberger 18-24-0-196.

ulk 8-72, Brown 5-59, Patten 4-39, Pitts-  
burgh, Ward 6-58, Randle El 6-44, Burrese  
53, Haynes 2-18, Krolter 1-12

**Points** 23 **40** **12**

**Bears 23, 49ers 13**

**An Francisco** 10 3 0 0—13  
**Chicago** 7 6 0 10—23

**First Quarter**  
Chi—Berrian 49 pass from Krenzle  
Edinger kick, 13:01.  
SF—Carpenter 80 fumble return (T.Peter-  
son kick), 5:26.  
SF—FG T.Peterson 48, :40.

**Second Quarter**  
Chi—FG Edinger 52, 13:27.  
SF—FG T.Peterson 51, 6:20.  
Chi—FG Edinger 45, 4:35.

**Fourth Quarter**  
Chi—FG Edinger 27, 13:59.  
Chi—Vasher 71 interception return  
Edinger kick, 3:52.  
A—62,054.

**first downs** SF 10 Chi 14

shes-yards	23-62	33-120
ssing	100	134

Unit Returns	6-30	6-84
Jackoff Return	1-25	4-159
Interceptions Ret.	1-14	1-71
Comp-Att-Int	16-36-1	13-25-1
Yards-Yards Lost	3-22	5-34
	8-40-8	6-37-0
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	2-2
Penalties-Yards	5-30	8-58
Time of Possession	26:55	33:05

### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

**Rushing** - **San Francisco**, Lynn 18-56,  
 Dorsey 25-Beasley 25-**Chicago**, Thomas  
 5-98, Krenzel 4-9, Berrian 1-7, Wade 2-5,  
 ones 1-1.

**Passing** - **San Francisco**, Dorsey 16-36-1,  
 Krenzel 13-25-1-158.

**Receiving** - **San Francisco**, Lloyd 6-63, Bar-  
 row 3-16, Jackson 2-7, Beasley 2-(minus 1),  
 Little 1-20, EJohnson 1-9, Conway 1-4, Walk-  
 er 1-20, Thomas 4-83, Thomas 4-83,  
 1-1-30, 3-3, Berrian 1-48, Clark 1-21, Ter-

**Missed field goals—**San Francisco, T. Peter-  
n 50 (SH). Chicago, Edinger 53 (SH).





Chicago Bears cornerback Nathan Vasher, right, intercepts a pass intended for San Francisco 49ers receiver Brandon Lloyd (85) during the fourth quarter Sunday. Vasher ran the ball back for a touchdown.

## Bears turn 49ers into San Fiasco

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — San Francisco's Dennis Erickson called it a fiasco. And certainly it was an offensive performance that would make any coach lose sleep.

Chicago's Lovie Smith just labeled it a welcome victory. His offense struggled most of the night, as well, relying on rookie quarterback Craig Krenzel in his first NFL start.

In the end, it was another first-year player, defensive back Nathan Vasher, who sealed the Bears' 23-13 victory over the 49ers on Sunday night with a stumbling 71-yard interception return.

"It's an unacceptable performance offensively for us," Erickson said. "We're better than that. We have to be or else we aren't going to win very many football games."

The 49ers (1-6) have their worst record since the 1979 team was 0-7 in coach Bill Walsh's first season.

Chicago (2-5) snapped a four-game losing streak, using a defense that chased quarterback Ken Dorsey all night and holding the 49ers to 162 yards of offense — just 62 yards rushing.

With the Bears leading 16-13, Dorsey drove the 49ers to the Chi-

cago 36, but Vasher intercepted a pass, stumbled and somehow kept his balance before racing down the sideline.

The 49ers challenged, saying he was down by contact. But when officials ruled after video replay that Vasher was not touched down — his knee hit the ground — because he was bobbling the ball at the time, the TD return with 3:52 left stood.

"I felt confident about it, but you never know how they will rule it," Vasher said. "So they got it right this time and it was the key for us."

The Bears also got three field goals from Paul Edinger and 98 yards rushing from Anthony Thomas, a two-time, 100-yard rusher relegated to backup duty by Bears Thomas Jones.

But when Jones sprained his foot after one carry, Thomas picked it up.

"I don't feel like they forgot about me. This offense is set up for Thomas (Jones) and everybody knows that," Thomas said.

Krenzel and Dorsey had squared off in the national title game at the Fiesta Bowl following the 2002 season when Krenzel led Ohio State past Dorsey and Miami.

Krenzel wasted little time making an impression. On the second play from scrimmage, he lofted a perfect pass to fellow rookie Bernard Berrian, who beat Shawan-

tee Spencer and broke his tackle to complete a 49-yard TD pass just 2 minutes into the game.

But the euphoria didn't last long. After he'd driven the Bears to the 9 with passes of 30 yards to Anthony Thomas and 16 to Bobby Wade, Krenzel fumbled on a hit by Brandon Moore and Dwanell Carpenter scooped it up and ran 80 yards for a TD.

On the next series, Ronnie Heard intercepted Krenzel's overthrown pass, leading to Todd Peterson's 48-yard field goal.

"I did some really good things out there, threw some nice passes," Krenzel said. "I'm very disappointed in the way I protected the ball."

Dorsey, in his second season and making his third start because of a right forearm injury to Tim Rattay, had trouble getting off passes under the heavy blitz. Dorsey was 16-of-36 for 122 yards, while Krenzel was 13-of-25 for 168.

**Seahawks 23, Panthers 17:** At Seattle, Shaun Alexander gained 195 yards on 32 carries and the Seahawks (4-3) snapped a three-game losing streak. Josh Brown kicked three field goals in the second half, connecting from 27, 45 and 22 yards.

The Panthers (1-6) lost their fifth straight. They were driving for a possible late score, but Jake Delhomme threw an interception straight to Seattle's Marcus Truitt, who returned it 57 yards.

## Brees nearly perfect in Chargers' rout

By BERNIE WILSON  
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — In any other blowout, Philip Rivers might have gotten the chance to make his NFL debut. Not in this one. Even the rookie knew that Drew Brees deserved to finish the game he started.

Brees was practically perfect Sunday, throwing a career-high five touchdown passes and setting team records for passing efficiency in leading the surprising San Diego Chargers to a 42-14 rout of the sad-sack Oakland Raiders.

"It was fun," said Brees, who continued his remarkable turnaround from last year's nightmare. "It felt like we could run anything in our base offense, and we knew it was going to work. We had that confidence."

Brees completed his first eight passes to quiet the thousands of Raiders fans in the stadium, and finished 22-for-25 for 281 yards and no interceptions. He set team records with his 88-percent completion rate and 153.1 passer rating. The highest rating a quarterback can have is 158.3.

"Drew's on fire," star running back LaDainian Tomlinson said.

If Brees had played like this last year, the Chargers wouldn't have needed to spend No. 1 pick and \$40 million on Rivers.

Brees is doing his best to keep Rivers on the sideline. And because this is the last year of his contract, he could present the front office with a dilemma if he keeps playing well.

Coach Marty Schottenheimer planned to take Brees out in the final minutes, but said Rivers told him: "Coach, the way he is playing, let him finish."

The Chargers made Brees the scapegoat for an NFL-worst 4-12 season in 2003, a move that backfired when Rivers, obtained in a draft-day deal with the New York

Giants for Eli Manning and a handful of picks, missed the first month of training camp in a contract holdout, allowing Brees to keep his job.

Brees said his motivation is to keep winning games and a championship, not to prove people wrong.

"I play for this team," he said. "Obviously I love the game and feel we have something special. I want more than anything for it to keep going."

The Chargers are 5-3 at the season's midpoint and tied for the AFC West lead with Denver, which lost to Atlanta.

Brees has 14 touchdown passes against his three interceptions this year, compared to his 15 interceptions and 11 TDs last year.

His previous best for touchdown passes in a game was three, which he did three times.

He hit tight end Antonio Gates with scoring passes of 5 yards and 1 yard on consecutive drives in the third quarter to give the Chargers a 42-7 lead. The second scoring pass to Gates came on fourth down, and the former Kent State basketball star spiked the ball through the uprights.

"We all trust Drew," Gates said. "Right now, he's the captain of the ship. He's making this offense click."

The Raiders (2-6) lost their fifth straight and for the 13th straight time on the road. Kerry Collins had two passes intercepted — a 47-yarder in 11 in S's games since replacing the injured Kirk Gannon — and the Raiders were held to 22 yards rushing.

"It is real simple — we are not a good football team," said cornerback Charles Woodson, who re-injured his hip.

The Raiders have lost 16 of their last 20 games.

"We just got flat embarrassed," defensive lineman Warren Sapp said. "For some reason, we just can't turn this vibe off."

## Curtains: Steelers cash in on turnovers

CURTAINS, FROM BACK PAGE

Rather than Roethlisberger, it was the Patriots' Tom Brady who looked like the rookie, throwing two interceptions and losing a fumble in New England's first loss since a 20-17 defeat to Washington on Sept. 28, 2003.

"It's not weird at all [to lose], we knew it was a possibility every week," linebacker Tedy Bruschi said. "That's why we played so hard every week. But a couple of things happened, a couple of mistakes ... and they were rolling."

Everything looked status quo early for the Patriots, who overcame Dillon's absence following two consecutive 100-yard games to drive for Adam Vinatieri's

43-yard field goal, the 15th straight game they've scored first.

After that, it fell apart. Roethlisberger hit Ward for 21 yards ahead of a perfectly thrown 47-yard scoring pass to a streaked-out Burress, who quickly shed backup Randall Gay two plays after he came in for the injured Law.

"He (Gay) was a lame duck out there, so we just went right at him," Burress said.

It never got any better for the Patriots, playing here for the first time since upsetting Pittsburgh 24-17 in the AFC championship game in January 2002.

On New England's next play, Brady fumbled after a hard hit from Joey Porter, leading to Ro-

ethlisberger's 4-yard pass to Burress and a 14-3 lead.

Just 16 seconds later, Brady, hit by Larry Foote and Kimmo Oelhoffen, threw the ball directly to Deshaea Townsend for a 39-yard interception return for a touchdown, and it was 21-3 almost before New England fans had put down their signs from Saturday's Red Sox victory parade.

"It was pretty obvious the Steelers were the better team," Belichick said. "They outcoached us, outplayed us, and we weren't good in any phase of the game. We didn't do much of anything right."

Duce Staley supported Roethlisberger by running for 125 yards in his fourth 100-yard game of the season, two more than the Steelers (6-10) had all last season.



Chargers running back LaDainian Tomlinson, left, celebrates with quarterback Drew Brees during San Diego's victory over the Raiders.

# Last meeting produces 'miracle'

BY ANDREA ADLESON  
The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Fans streamed out of the Meadowlands quite early the last time the New York Jets and Miami Dolphins played on Monday night.

They had little reason to stay. The Dolphins took a 30-7 lead into the fourth quarter on Oct. 23, 2000, and there seemed to be little hope for a comeback.

But Jets defensive end John Abraham saw something a little different. A rookie at the time, Abraham watched from home because he was out with an injury. His friends wanted to turn off the television and go out.

Abraham said no. He had a feeling something special was about to happen.

"I never thought we were out of the game," Abraham recalled. "I didn't feel we were going to lose. All the odds were against them, but they came back and won. I just had a gut feeling."

So he watched as his teammates started to rally and mounted the biggest comeback in franchise history to force overtime, then finally won 40-37 in a game known as the "Monday Night Miracle."

It took over four hours and ended early in the a.m., making it one of the greatest Monday night games of all-time.

"I might have voted it the worst



one," Dolphins fullback Rob Konrad said. "But it was definitely an interesting one. In the fourth quarter, it almost seemed like Murphy's Law. Anything that could go wrong went wrong. Crazy things just ended up happening. I remember it just being utter and total disbelief leaving the stadium."

Ten Dolphins and 10 Jets remain from that game. Both teams were 5-1, but the Jets owned the rivalry in recent years, winning four straight entering the matchup. But it was the Dolphins that jumped ahead early, leaving the Jets scrambling.

New York never panicked. Defensive tackle Jason Ferguson remembered looking his teammates in the eye, knowing they would make an improbable run to the victory. Linebacker Bryan Cox, a former Dolphin playing for New York at the time, huddled with Martin James and Mo Lewis on the sideline to make a plan for a comeback.

"In the NFL they always talk about if you're two or three scores down the game is out of reach, but we dispelled that notion," Cox said in a phone interview. "It was a wonderful thing against one of my favorite teams."

Vinny Testaverde started the rally with a 30-yard touchdown pass to Levernues Coles, then followed with a TD pass to Jermaine Wiggins, and a 24-yarder to Wayne Chrebet that tied the game at 30.

Miami went back ahead 37-30 when Jay Fiedler threw a 46-yard scoring pass to Leslie Shepherd 22 seconds later. Still plenty of time for the Jets, and perhaps the most stunning part of the victory: Testaverde tied the game with a 3-yard scoring pass to tackle-eligible Jumbo Elliott, a 300-pound lineman who bobbed the ball before holding on with 42 seconds remaining in regulation.

From the sideline, Cox remembered thinking: "It must be meant for us to win the game now."

John Hall finally ended the game with a 40-yard field goal in overtime. Testaverde went 18-for-26 for 235 yards in the final period to bring his team back.

"It wasn't a good night for us," Dolphins cornerback Patrick Surin said. "The only thing I can remember is Jumbo Elliott catching a touchdown."

To Jets center Kevin Mawae, something else sticks out: watching Dolphins defensive end Jason Taylor shedding tears when it was all over. Taylor had a microphone on for the entire game so the national television audience could hear little snippets of what he had to say.

"That was pretty sweet," Mawae said. "It was a special game."

"It showed a lot of the character of the team at that time and the fact that you can never count us out."

Though the Jets improved to 6-1 with the victory, they finished 9-7 and failed to make the playoffs. Coach Al Groh resigned and Herman Edwards took over.

Four years later, the details may be a little hazier but the feelings are still clear.

"I just remember the feeling in the air," Jets running back Curtis Martin said. "It was almost as if you feel like no matter what you would expect to perform the impossible under that stress."



Randy Moss

## Moss may miss game to rest his hamstring

BY DAVE CAMPBELL  
The Associated Press

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Minnesota's Randy Moss might miss a game for the first time in his career because of a lingering right hamstring strain that isn't getting a whole lot better.

The Vikings will decide later this week whether they should rest the All-Pro receiver on Monday night at Indianapolis.

Since being hurt before half-time at New Orleans on Oct. 17, Moss has been limited to just 11 snaps over the last 10 quarters. Although he leads the team with eight touchdown catches and his consecutive games streak remains alive at 103, he's gotten the last two games without a reception.

"Can we get him back at full speed sooner if we just sit him coach Mike Tice said. "Or is he going to be back at full speed the same length of time if we just play him in a limited role — based on the fact that in two weeks he didn't take a step back?"

"We have to monitor that, as the weeks go on. We have to do what's best for the team to achieve our goals, which are to win the division and win the world championship. We can't do what's best for a streak, or anything of that nature."

Players were given Monday off, with the extra day ahead to prepare for the Colts.

Moss was thrown to once in Sunday's 34-13 loss to the New York Giants, and he clearly wasn't able to run hard whenever he went downtown. The Vikings planned to use him frequently inside the opponent's 20, but the offense opportunities were scarce.

Moss told Tice on Sunday night that he was feeling better, but the seventh-year star will begin the week listed as questionable on the injury report.

# What? Pats lose? Time to fire the coach

BY JIM DONALDSON  
The Providence Journal

## Commentary

Fire Bill Belichick. Bring back Pete Carroll. His team's still undefeated.

Trade Tom Brady. See if the Pittsburgh Steelers can be suckered into making a deal for their big rookie QB.

None of these doesn't worry you that the New England Patriots haven't won a game since the last time the Boston Red Sox won a World Series? Okay, that's enough foolishness.

Now, let's get serious.

Which is to say, not Sunday's 34-20 setback at the hands of the Steelers too seriously.

The Patriots were going to lose sooner or later. And, given that they'd won an NFL-record 21 in a row, sooner was the much more likely scenario — particularly going into Pittsburgh, which was 5-1 and winner of its previous four since first-year phenom "Big Ben" Roethlisberger took over at quarterback.

Fans of the black and gold see the kid as the next T.B. No, not Tom Brady, who led the Patriots to two Super Bowl victories, but Terry Bradshaw, who was four for the Steelers in the '70s.

They may be right. As for his 196 completions in 24 attempts for 196 yards and two touchdowns (without an interception or a sack) makes obvious, Roethlisberger's pretty damn good.

But neither he nor the Steelers had to be at their best Sunday to beat the injury-riddled Patriots.

The Pats' remarkable run came to an end because they ran out of good players against a team good enough to take advantage of the situation.

For starters, the Patriots went to the game without their top running back, Corey Dillon, who last week rushed for 115 yards on 22 carries.

How much did that hurt? Well, New England rushed for exactly 5 yards Sunday — the second-lowest total in team history — on the not-so-grand total of six attempts.

At halftime, they had minus-1. The only time a Patriots team ran for fewer yards on the ground was in 1986, at New Orleans, when they gained just two, yet still managed to win 21-20.

There was no such sleight-of-hand Sunday. The Pats finally had run out of rabbits to pull out of their helmets.

They also ran out of cornerbacks. And offensive linemen, too.

Already missing starting right corner Tyrone Poole, New England lost all-pro left corner Ty Law 10 minutes into the first half when he turned his left ankle while backpedaling in coverage.

And how much did that hurt? Two plays later, Roethlisberger threw a 47-yard pass to Plaxico Burress, who beat rookie corner Randall Gay for a touchdown that gave the Steelers a 7-3 lead.

"We know when a player like Ty Law goes out of a game," Roethlisberger said. "He's an All-Pro. You have to know that it's one of those things where he is out, and now we have to keep an eye on who is over there."

It was painful to watch Brady, who committed two costly turnovers early in the game, then gamely tried to throw on almost every down in the second half with the Steelers coming after him like a makeshift offensive line struggled to protect him.

Brandon Gorin made the first start of his NFL career, stepping in at right tackle in place of Tom Ashworth. But when Matt Light had to leave the game in the third quarter, Gorin was shifted to the left side, right guard Stephen Neal moved to right tackle, and Russ Hochstetner came off the bench to take over Neal's spot.

Not surprisingly, Brady was sacked four times and threw two interceptions, one of which was returned for a touchdown. He also lost a fumble, getting hit just as he was about to release the ball, to set up another Pittsburgh touchdown.

What was stunning was not that the Patriots lost, but that the winning streak that had gone on for so long could essentially disappear in the span of a disastrous four minutes.

That Roethlisberger just two plays to take advantage of Law's injury. Two plays after that, Brady fumbled the ball away at his 27 as he was being sacked,

paving the way for another TD pass from Roethlisberger, who capitalized on the height advantage of tight end Don-S Burres to get the 5-foot-10 Eugene Wilson.

On the first play after the ensuing kickoff, Brady's pass was intercepted by Deshaea Townsend, who ran 39 yards for a touchdown and a 21-3 lead.

That quickly, the New England winning streak was essentially over.

And the Patriots were unable to move the ball on the ground, the Steelers rushed for 221 yards, with Duke Staley carrying up 125 on 25 attempts — a 5.6 yard average — and Jerome Bettis adding 65 and a touchdown on 15 carries.

As a result, Pittsburgh was able to control the clock throughout the game — for 10:25 in the first quarter, 10:13 in the second, 10:34 in the third, and a whopping 11:46 in the fourth.

And it did, up to the Steelers' advantage in time of possession was 42:58 to 17:02.

It was a long time between losses for the Patriots, whose last setback went to 20-17 at Washington on Sept. 28, 2003.

"My hat goes off to Bill Belichick and that whole team," Pittsburgh coach Bill Cowher said. "At some point, the streak was going to have to end. What they accomplished is absolutely phenomenal."

Belichick wasn't feeling phenomenal Sunday.

"We did the best we could with what we had," he said. "We had problems everywhere."

# Eagles adjusting to new role as leaders

## Philadelphia last remaining unbeaten team

BY ROB MAADDI  
The Associated Press

**PHILADELPHIA** — The Philadelphia Eagles aren't used to being leaders.

The Eagles usually struggle early in the season, then spend the rest of the year recovering in the standings and jockeying for playoff position.

This year, the rest of the league is trying to catch up to Philadelphia.

At 7-0, the Eagles have the best record in franchise history and lead Atlanta (6-2) by 1½ games in the NFC. With New England losing to Pittsburgh, the Eagles are the only undefeated team in the NFL.

No matter, they won't get caught up in the hype. After three straight losses in the NFC championship game, the Eagles won't be celebrating much until they finally get to the Super Bowl.

"You don't enjoy it and you don't get too pressure on yourself," Eagles coach Andy Reid said Monday about the 7-0 record. "You go out and you play and you take it like it's a normal week."



PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/RET

**Eagles' quarterback Donovan McNabb eludes the grasp of the Ravens' Edgerton Hartwell during their game at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia on Sunday. The Eagles are the only remaining undefeated NFL team.**

You don't worry about records or anything else. You just concentrate on the game. You don't have time for all that other stuff."

Last season, the Eagles started with a loss and were 3-2 after five games. They went 9-2 the rest of the way, needing help to secure the No. 1 seed as Green Bay lost to the New York Jets on the final day of the regular season.

In 2001, they also lost the opener and were 3-3 after six games. They finished 8-2, but didn't earn a first-round bye.

"It's not really jubilation and excitement about 7-0," safety Brian Dawkins said. "We are happy, but we understand that we still have some tough games to play."

In 2001, they also lost the opener and were 3-3 after six games. They finished 8-2, but didn't earn a first-round bye.

"It's not really jubilation and excitement about 7-0," safety Brian Dawkins said. "We are happy, but we understand that we still have some tough games to play."

After five double-digit victories to start the season, the Eagles had a tougher time the last two weeks. They needed overtime to win in Cleveland and held off a late rally by Baltimore to win 15-10 Sunday.

"It's going to build character for us and obviously it's going to give us something to build on toward the end of the season," wide receiver Terrell Owens said. "Every win is not going to be a blowout. There are going to be some close games."

Owens and quarterback Donovan McNabb are the main reasons for Philadelphia's perfect start. The two have connected for nine touchdowns, including one that sealed the victory against the Ravens.

A four-time Pro Bowl selection, McNabb is having his best season. He has thrown for 1,972 yards and 14 TDs with three interceptions, and also has run for two scores. Owens, an MVP contender in his first season with the Eagles, has 42 catches for 697 yards and nine TDs. He has over 100 yards receiving in the last five games, a career best and a team record.

Next up for the Eagles are the Pittsburgh Steelers, who improved to 6-1 with a 34-20 victory that ended New England's NFL-record 21-game winning streak.

"I always thought they were a tough team," Reid said. "I think they have a lot of talent. It will be a lot of fun."



**Atlanta's T.J. Duckett breaks into the open on a 21-yard touchdown run against the Denver Broncos on Sunday.**

## Mile-High air revives Vick, Falcons' defense

BY EDDIE PELLIS  
The Associated Press

**DENVER** — While Jake Plummer was setting records in the fourth quarter, Michael Vick was standing on the sideline savoring a surprisingly easy victory.

Vick accounted for 367 yards of offense Sunday to help the Atlanta Falcons to a 41-28 victory over the Denver Broncos, who got 499 yards passing from Plummer — much of it completed in his vain attempt to play catch-up.

"I don't care what the numbers are," Plummer said. "We lost the game."

The 499 yards were Plummer's career high, the best mark in the NFL this season and a franchise record. Rod Smith had a career-high 208 yards receiving and an 80-yard touchdown, one of four Plummer threw. The Broncos also set a franchise record with 567 yards of offense.

But none of it was nearly enough to overcome Plummer's three interceptions and the stellar performance by Vick.

"He's something very special and I've never seen him play like that," Denver defensive lineman Luther Ellis said. "That's definitely the best game of the year, and maybe his career."

Vick threw two touchdown passes to Peelle Reese and had 252 yards passing and 115 rushing, both season highs.

On almost every level, was quite a contrast from last week for the Falcons (6-2), who gave up an NFL-record eight rushing touchdowns in a 56-10 loss in Kansas City.

"This week we had the mind-set that we were going to stay focused and learn from the film and put it behind us," linebacker Keith Brooking said. "We did that today. We fought back and won convincingly, and that just shows the heart we have on this club."

The Broncos (5-3), meanwhile, have more questions to answer after being upset for the second straight week. Last Monday night, it was a 23-10 loss at Cincinnati. And then, this.

"It's very demoralizing for a team," said tailback Reuben Droughns, who was held to 49 yards rushing. "Any time you have back-to-back losses, it's very embarrassing."

At least they don't have any more games against Vick, who got things going early by turning what looked like a sure loss into a 44-yard run down the middle of the field, a play that "kind of set the tempo," Broncos cornerback Kelly Herndon said.

Atlanta gained 467 yards against a defense allowing less than 240 a game. Vick, who went 18-for-24 for a passer rating of 136.1, led the Falcons to scores on six of their first nine possessions; the stat would have been better if not for a missed field goal and a fumble in Denver territory.

## Sunday's NFL stars:

### Quarterbacks

■ Peyton Manning, Colts, passed for 472 yards and five touchdowns, the fifth five-TD performance of his career, in a 34-30 victory over New England. He won his Chiefs, threw for 389 yards and three scores.

■ Drew Brees, Chargers, threw a career-high five touchdown passes and set the team single-game record for pass efficiency by going 22-for-25, 88 percent, for 283 yards in a 42-14 romp over Oakland.

■ Ben Roethlisberger, Steelers, upped his personal winning streak to 18 with a 34-30 victory over New England. He won his first 13 at Miami of Ohio last season following an opening-game loss, and now is the first second-rookie quarterback since the 1970 merger to win his NFL first five starts. He was 18-for-24 for 158 yards and no interceptions and is 39-40 in his last two games.

■ Michael Vick, Falcons, threw two touchdowns passes to Peelle Reese and accounted for 367 yards of offense in a



AP photos

41-28 win at Denver. Vick finished with season highs of 115 yards rushing and 252 passing, going 18-for-24.

■ Jake Plummer, Broncos, threw for a Denver record 499 yards, a career high and the best mark in the league this year. But also had three interceptions. He went 31-of-55 with four touchdown passes in the loss to Atlanta.

### Receivers

■ Terrell Owens, Eagles, had eight catches for 101 yards and the winning touchdown in a 15-10 victory over the Ravens. After breaking several tackles to score in the fourth quarter, Owens, known for his innovative celebrations, imitated the dance Baltimore's Ray Lewis does when he's introduced before home games.

■ Rod Smith, Falcons, had nine receptions for career-high 208 yards and an 80-yard TD in a 41-28 loss to Atlanta.

■ Reggie Wayne and Marvin Harrison, Colts, each had 119 yards and two touchdowns apiece in a 45-35 loss at Kansas City. Chiefs TE Tony Gonzalez had eight catches for 125 yards and two TDs.

■ Muntari Muhammad, Panthers, had eight catches for 106 yards and two touchdowns in a

23-17 loss at Seattle.

■ David Givens, Patriots, made eight catches for 101 yards and two touchdowns in a 34-20 loss at Pittsburgh.

### Running Backs

■ Chris Brown, Titans, rushed for 147 yards, his fifth 100-yard performance this season, and led to a 23-20 victory over Cincinnati.

■ Tiki Barber, Giants, the league leader in yards from scrimmage, rushed 104 times for 101 yards and two short touchdowns in a 34-13 win at Miami.

■ Willis McGahee, Bills, ran for 102 yards and two scores in a 35-20 victory over the Cardinals. In two starts this season, McGahee has two 100-yard games, tied the TD to the TD in both of his victories. McGahee's two scores there were the first to lead the TD to the TD touchdowns rushing in 103 games for Buffalo.

■ Clinton Portis, Redskins, got an early fumble to finish with 143 yards rushing and three touchdowns, 125 yards over 17 45-35 win over Indianapolis.

■ Clinton Portis, Redskins, gained 195 yards on 32 carries and scored two TDs in a 23-17 win over Carolina.

## SPORTS



Auburn moves up, but USC, Oklahoma still entrenched atop rankings, Page 35

# It's Steel Curtains for Patriots' streak

## Roethlisberger ends New England's run at 21

BY ALAN ROBINSON

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The New England Patriots are no longer perfect, all because of a rookie quarterback who still is.

Ben Roethlisberger, who doesn't know what it's like to lose an NFL game, drove the Steelers to four scores after uncharacteristic New England turnovers and Pittsburgh ended the Patriots' two long winning streaks with a remarkably easy 34-20 victory Sunday.

The Patriots (6-1) had won 21 straight counting the playoffs and a league-record 18 in a row in the regular season, but were all but out of this one after Roethlisberger threw two touchdown passes to Plaxico Burress during a 21-point Steelers first quarter.

Maybe all this winning was too much to ask of Boston-area teams.

With running back Corey Dillon (thigh) sitting out and Pro Bowl cornerback Ty Law (foot) sidelined for all but a few plays, the Patriots' record run ended only four days after the Boston Red Sox won their first World Series in 86 years.

"It was never about the streak, that was never part of our preparation," linebacker Mike Vrabel said. "It wasn't this week against the Steelers, either. We just didn't play well enough to win, that's it."

This was supposed to be the game that exposed Roethlisberger as a rookie — taking on New England's defensive mastermind, coach Bill Belichick, and the Patriots' unpredictable defenses.

Instead, Roethlisberger ran his own winning streak to 18 — his last 13 games at Miami of Ohio and his first five in the NFL.



Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Plaxico Burress celebrates a touchdown against the New England Patriots in the first quarter on Sunday.

"I heard those experts talking on TV that he can't beat a Bill Belichick defense," Burress said. "But they're finding out around the league."

Only former Steelers quarterback Mike Kruczek's 6-0 start while subbing for the injured Terry Bradshaw in 1976 is longer than Roethlisberger's since the

1970 NFL merger. But Kruczek never threw a TD pass in 10 games that season.

Roethlisberger already has nine scoring passes in what is fast becoming the best season by a rookie quarterback since 1983, when Dan Marino threw 20 touchdown passes and only six interceptions in 11 games for Miami.

"It's only been five games," Roethlisberger said. "We keep saying it over and over again, let's not get too excited."

His teammates certainly are excited, with the Steelers (6-1) enjoying their best record since the 1978 team was 7-4. Roethlisberger was 18-for-24 for 196 yards and no interceptions Sunday and

has completed 39 of 49 passes in his past two games.

"You can't describe his effort," wide receiver Hines Ward said. "He's 5-0, and he's earning a lot of respect on this team. The guys on this team are fighting hard for him."

SEE CURTAINS ON PAGE 37



**Vick's woes disappear in Denver's thin air; Eagles leave rest of league playing catchup**

Page 39



**Three straight wins lift Johnson from oblivion to Cup contention**

Page 33



**Singh enjoying rags-to-riches success on Tour** Page 32



6 54260 00101 9